



## Blood and Transplant

**To: Medical Director, Chief Executive Officer, Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Chair of RTC, Chair of HTC, Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion, England EPRR and Chief Nurses**

**06 January 2025**

**Platelet Stock Update – Move to PRE- AMBER ALERT** for all platelet ABO groups on 9 January 2025. **Continue to use A D negative platelets for named patients only.**

**Red cell Stock Update – Remain in AMBER ALERT for O red cells and PRE-AMBER ALERT for B D negative red cells.**

Dear Colleagues

We are pleased to confirm that we are now able to remove the Amber Alert that we declared on 27 December for all platelet ABO groups and move to Pre-Amber status. This will come into effect on the **09 January 2025**. You may stand down your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for platelets.

**Please keep all your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for O red cells in place.**

Whilst our platelet stock levels have improved, to support us in maintaining uninterrupted supply, we will need **to continue to issue A D negative platelets for named patients. This is expected to last for an additional week, until 16 January 2025.**

We would like to thank you for your support with reduced ordering and supporting us whilst we recovered platelet stock levels.

We are now able to accept platelet stock orders for groups other than A negative platelets.

However, as we are at Pre-Amber for platelets, we still need you to maintain the shortage plan actions for this [alert status](#). Please ensure you maintain effective stock management and all patient blood management initiatives for appropriate use, to support stocks.

### **8 Actions required at Pre-Amber Status for platelets:**

- Maintain reduced platelet stockholding
- Avoid requesting long-dated platelets
- For urgent requests, match ABO group, rather than rely on group A platelets, if time permits

- Group specific platelets should be provided if possible
- Accept and use both apheresis and pooled platelets (except where there is a requirement for HLA/HPA matched platelets)
- Accept [appropriate substitutions](#)
- Consider alternatives to transfusion where appropriate
- Enter component stock levels and wastage data into VANESA

Any delays to transfusion or any avoidable transfusion incidents should be reported to Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT).

### **Appropriate Use of Platelets:**

The Patient Blood Management Team have produced a range of [resources](#) to support best practice in Platelet use.

If you need any support or guidance, please contact your Hospital Customer Service Manager.

Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.**

Yours Sincerely

**Dr Lise Estcourt**  
Medical Director for Transfusion  
NHS Blood and Transplant

**Prof. Cheng-Hock Toh**  
Chair  
National Blood Transfusion Committee

