



Blood and Transplant

To: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Chair of HTC, Chair of RTC, Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for Blood Transfusion, England EPRR, Chief Nurses

10 April 2024

Low stock - B R₀ red cells and A D negative platelets

Dear Colleague,

We currently have low stock levels of group B R₀ red cells and A D negative platelets. Unfortunately, this will result in the need for substitutions.

Until stocks improve, we will offer O D negative red cells for B R₀ orders where necessary.

We remain at Amber Alert status for group O red cells and pre-Amber for B D negative red cells. We will exit this status when stocks are sufficiently certain and stable.

To support our ability to supply red cells and platelets we need you to take the following actions:

Hospital Action:

1. Accept substitutions offered to you where clinically appropriate. We will offer O D negative red cells in place of B R₀.
2. Use A D positive platelets for males and females over 50 years of age of unknown blood group.
3. Review your stock holding and reduce where possible.
4. Do not specify CMV, apheresis or high titre negative requirements unless clinically required.
5. Review the appropriateness of requests for platelets, especially any requests for double dose platelets. Ensure that wastage is kept to a minimum and stock is held only where essential for patient safety.
6. When placing your order, please indicate the date and time you require the platelets for transfusion. Please let our Hospital Services team know immediately if the urgency of any order changes.
7. When a platelet has been ordered, it may not arrive on your routine round and may be sent as a free ad-hoc at a later time. Your platelet order may arrive from a different issuing site.

Please refer to the link for additional advice on transfusing [platelets across blood groups](#).

We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause and thank you for helping us to resolve this issue. We will provide a further update when appropriate.

We are working hard to inspire more people to give blood. Action includes:

- An Easter campaign on social media and in local media to encourage people to save lives over the holiday period by donating. This will include coverage on BBC1's the One Show and BBC London featuring the new Brixton donor centre.
- Many local recruitment events including a staff donation session at Guy's and St Thomas'; and
- Communication out to all 1.2 million donors and people who have registered but not donated, asking them to donate regularly.

Please forward this letter to your consultant lead for transfusion and cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Kind regards

Dr. Lise Estcourt
Medical Director – Transfusion
NHS Blood and Transplant

Prof. Cheng-Hock Toh
Chair
National blood Transfusion Committee

