

Blood and Transplant

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

12 June 2025

**Group O red cell shortage – Amber Alert continues – Risk of Red Alert Reduced
Group B D negative red cell shortage – Pre-Amber continues**

Dear Colleagues,

We are extremely grateful to all hospitals that have supported us since we warned of the risk of a move to Red Alert status. With your considered ordering and willingness to work with us, we have seen a significant improvement in group O stocks. We are now able to reduce the interventions we put in place. We will stop triaging of group O D negative orders from **Friday 13th June**.

To continue to support recovery and to protect vital O D negative red cell stocks at Amber Status we are asking you to deploy all best practice, including:

- Use O D negative red cells for females of childbearing potential of unknown blood group.
- Use O D positive red cells for males and females over 50 years of age of unknown blood group.
- Please ensure ALL actions required in the Amber stage of the [NBTC red cell shortage plan](#) remain in place particularly best transfusion and inventory management practice.

Our stock levels are updated on our website each weekday; you can see them [here](#)

Our team is promoting donation through extensive media and advertising coverage, particularly linked to National Blood Week. Thank you to those of you who are helping us get the message out through your own comms teams. We have seen an incredible public reaction and a big increase in donor bookings. We are particularly asking the public to fill the appointments in our 27 town and city centre donor centres where we have the best availability and reminding the public the NHS needs blood every day and all year round.

We thank you for your continuing support. We are working hard to improve stock levels and will update you regularly.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager. Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

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

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh
Chair
National Blood Transfusion Committee

