

## 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**

**20 June 2025**

### **Low stock - B D negative red cells**

Dear Colleague,

Our stock of group O red cells continues to improve. Thank you for your help in supporting O stock levels.

However, our stock of group B D negative red cells is increasingly fragile and reducing. To support recovery, and maintain stocks for B D negative patients, we need to ask for your support again.

Until stocks improve, we will offer O D negative red cells for B R<sub>0</sub> orders where necessary. Our Hospital Services team will refer to a modified substitution matrix when supplying to your orders.

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

To support our ability to supply red cells that are appropriate to your patient, 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 if B R<sub>0</sub> red cells are not available.
2. Review your stock holding of B D negative red cells and reduce where possible.
3. Order R<sub>0</sub> red cells 5 days in advance where possible; we move units to where they are needed.
4. Delete outstanding orders on OBOS if the order is no longer required. They can be used for other patients.
5. Order R<sub>0</sub> units for R<sub>0</sub> patients so we have accurate demand data.

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 continue to deliver an extensive media campaign to secure new and returning donors to help us build and stabilise stocks.

**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

