

## 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**

**15 August 2025**

**Low stock - B D negative red cells  
Stock status – Move to Green for O D positive**

Dear Colleague

Thank you for supporting our move out of Amber and into Pre-Amber for group O. With your continued support we are now able to move to Green for group O D positive red cells. We remain at Pre-Amber Alert for O D negative and B D negative red cells.

Unfortunately, our stock of group B D negative red cells is 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. This will start on 18 August 2025.

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 at least 5 days in advance where possible; this will help us 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

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

