

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

26 March 2026

Low stock levels of A negative platelets and AB platelets over the Easter period

Dear Colleague

To support us in maintaining an uninterrupted supply of A D negative and AB platelets over the Easter holiday period, from **midday on 1 April 2026** we will only issue these for named patients.

All other requests for “Stock” will be supplied with a minimum of 48-hours shelf life from receipt where possible. Hospital Services may call to request your approval for substitutions to ensure the efficient management of older stock.

To support availability, please:

- Order in line with BSH guidelines to help us maintain the availability of higher specification platelets for those patients who need them.
- Consider the clinical need before specifying CMV negative requirements.
- Do not request High Titre negative for ABO identical platelet transfusion.

Easter Service- summary table of services at the end of this email

Deliveries

We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering one routine delivery on Monday 6 April 2026. Please take advantage of this delivery, and avoid large stock orders, as it helps us manage stock. On 3 April we will make ad hoc and emergency deliveries only.

Collect orders

We will fulfil collect orders as normal. Please provide as much notice as possible to assist us in meeting your order.

Ordering HLA and HPA Platelets

HLA selected platelets may be sourced from any NHSBT centre in England. You may experience significant delays with delivery and/or collection orders. Wherever possible, please place planned orders for 3 - 6 April inclusive by 12.00pm on Thursday 2 April.

If you have any concerns regarding delays affecting patient care, please speak with your hospital Haematologist or the NHSBT H&I Consultant Clinical Scientist who will be happy to advise.

RCI samples

As RCI samples need to be tested within 7 days of the sample being taken please take account of this when sending samples.

Samples taken on or before Tuesday 31 March must be received by RCI no later than Wednesday 1 April. Routine samples received by RCI on Thursday 2 April must not have a bleed date of earlier than Wednesday 1 April.

Dependent on the time of receipt, routine samples received on Thursday 2 April may not be tested until Tuesday 7 April.

To ensure that samples do not have to be rejected due to age, please transport them in a timely manner.

Pooled Granulocytes

The table below indicates the availability of granulocytes. As a limited stock item we cannot guarantee supply. Delivery times may be longer dependent on location of the component at the point of issue.

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

Please ensure the table below is available to guide laboratory and clinical staff and forward this email to your consultant lead for transfusion.

Kind regards,

Hospital Customer Service Team

Transfusion – Clinical Services

NHS Blood and Transplant

Contact number: 0208 201 3107

<https://hospital.blood.co.uk/> and <https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk>



GUIDANCE FOR LABORATORY STAFF

Service provision for Easter 2026

	Delivery	RCI	H&I	Pooled Granulocytes
2 April	Normal Service			
3 April (Good Friday)	Ad-hoc and emergency deliveries	On Call	On Call	Normal service with best endeavours
4 April	Normal weekend service	Service provision as per local routine Saturday arrangements	On Call	Nationally 5 units O D positive & 3 units O D negative
5 April (Easter Sunday)	Normal weekend service	On Call	On Call	No Supply
6 April (Easter Monday)	First routine delivery	On Call	On Call	Nationally 2 units O D positive & 2 units O D negative
7 April	Normal Service			Nationally 3 units O D positive & 3 units O D negative
8 April	Normal Service			Normal service with best endeavours