

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

**30 March 2026**

### **Low Stock – B D negative red cells**

Dear Colleague,

Our stock of group B D negative red cells is falling, and we need to take action to stabilise supply. To support recovery, and maintain stocks for B D negative patients, we need to ask for your support.

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 for orders received after 09:00 on **31 March 2026**.

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

