



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

23 April 2026

Stock Update - B D negative and O D negative red cells

Dear Colleague,

We would like to thank you for your support in accepting O D negative red cells for B R₀ orders. From **09.00** on **24 April 2026** NHSBT will return to normal substitution practice to help balance stock across O and B D negative.

We remain at pre-Amber for both O D negative and B D negative red cells and ask that you continue to support us by maintaining all PBM and stock management best practice alongside the actions required in the [Stock Shortage Plan](#).

Action required

- Review and reduce your stock holding if safe to do so
- Order R₀ red cells 5 days in advance where possible; we move units to where they are needed
- Delete outstanding orders on OBOS if the order is no longer required. They can be used for other patients
- Order R₀ units for R₀ patients who require extended phenotype-matched blood so we have accurate demand data
- Use appropriate substitutions and use O D positive if safe to do so
- Use O D positive red cells for males, and females over 50, in emergencies where their blood group is unknown.
- Refer to [NBTC Pre-Amber guidance](#) and continue to implement [Patient Blood Management](#) recommendations including:
 - Use of tranexamic acid prior to major surgery
 - Appropriate treatment of iron deficiency anaemia with oral or intravenous iron
 - Appropriate treatment of vitamin B12/folate deficiencies
 - Single unit red cell transfusions if not actively bleeding or on a transfusion programme
 - Use a restrictive red cell transfusion threshold, haemoglobin of 70 g/L unless patient is bleeding, has acute coronary syndrome, or is on a chronic transfusion programme

We continue to deliver an extensive media campaign and working hard to bring in more O and B D negative donors.

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

