

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

**23 September 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 R<sub>0</sub> orders. From **10.00** on **24 September 2026** we 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](#).

**Continued action required**

- Review and reduce your stock holding if safe to do so
- Order R<sub>0</sub> 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 R<sub>0</sub> units for R<sub>0</sub> 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

