URGENT COMMUNICATION

A copy of this letter can be found on the Hospitals & Science “Home Page”
http://hospital.blood.co.uk/

Date: 4th October 2016

To: All Transfusion Laboratory Managers and Transfusion Practitioners in hospitals served by NHSBT

Dear Colleagues

Stocks of O D Negative Red Cells – UPDATE

We are pleased to confirm that due to actions taken over the last week our stock level of O D negative red cells has improved. We would like to thank you for your support and thank the many blood donors that responded to the challenge. However, stock levels remains sensitive to fluctuations and requires on going joint action to ensure sustainability and avoid a heightened state of alert.

In June’s “The Update”, we launched a new Ro substitution matrix http://hospital.blood.co.uk/media/28553/ro-substitution-matrix.pdf We will follow this matrix if we have insufficient Ro units of the correct group to fulfil an order in full, in the timescale required. Our staff will select Ro before rr and this may mean you will receive a mixture of suitable units including rr of a different group. Please ensure your staff are aware of the Ro substitution matrix and accept such suitable substitutions to reduce inappropriate use of limited O rr red cells. It would also assist us greatly if you could give as much notice as possible of Ro requests so that we can attempt to obtain these from other sites if necessary.

We are doing all we can to improve the situation but need your continuing help.

Immediate actions for hospitals:

1. Review and reduce your O D negative stockholding level – a small reduction will help
2. Conserve O D negative red cells for group O D negative patients in line with established guidelines.

Further considerations

1. Do you use O D positive red cells for unknown male patients for trauma?
2. Have you reviewed the number of O D negative emergency stock units in satellite/stock fridges within the last 12 months?
3. Can you switch to group specific blood within 15 minutes for emergency cases?
4. Do you investigate the cause of the use of more than 2 emergency O D negative red cells per case?
5. Do you share stock O D negative red cells with other hospitals?
6. Have you reduced the reservation period for O D negative red cells to 12 hours wherever possible?

Recommendations and resources from our “save one O D negative” campaign can be found at http://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/patient-blood-management/o-d-negative-red-cell-toolkit/
We are not currently asking you to activate your emergency blood management plans.

We are contacting hospitals with particularly high ordering or stock holding levels to develop specific plans to reduce demand. We thank you for your continuing support during this challenging time.

If you have any queries please contact an NHSBT Consultant, Customer Service Manager or Hospital Service Manager. Alternatively, please contact the Customer Service Response Desk on 0208 201 3107 between 08:30 and 16:30, Monday to Friday.

Please copy this letter to your consultant lead for transfusion and transfusion practitioner.

Yours faithfully

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