

## URGENT COMMUNICATION

A copy of this letter can be found at [hospital.blood.co.uk/](http://hospital.blood.co.uk/)

Date: 12 September 2017

To: **Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologists with responsibility for Blood Transfusion**

Dear Colleague,

### UPDATE - Stocks of O D Negative Red Cells

We would like to thank you for your support in helping us improve stocks of O D negative red cells. Demand for O D negative, as a proportion of red cell issues, remains a challenge and we ask for your ongoing support as we continue to build our stock levels.

#### How you can help us now:

1. Please review your O D negative stockholding and reduce where possible. A small reduction will make a big difference.
2. Please conserve O D negative red cells for O D negative patients in line with guidelines.
3. Please use O D negative Kell positive where appropriate, conserving Kell negative for females of child bearing potential.

#### Ongoing support:

Meeting the demand for O D negative blood is an ongoing challenge and we are grateful for your ongoing support in helping to ensure that O D negative blood is available for patients that need it. If you haven't already done so, please would you review your ongoing stock holding and usage of O D negative blood and set targets to reduce waste. We have produced resources to support you to do this in our "[Save one O D negative](#)" campaign.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager or Hospital Services Manager. Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

**Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.**

Yours sincerely,

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