

URGENT COMMUNICATION

A copy of this letter can be found at hospital.blood.co.uk/

Date: 5 December 2017

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

Dear Colleague,

Platelet Stock Levels

We are experiencing low stock levels of group A D positive platelets. This will result in some delays to supply and the need for substitutions during Wednesday 6 December. We expect a return to normal levels by Friday. We will not be able to offer group A D positive platelets for non-emergency cover, i.e. with a long shelf life held to avoid additional deliveries. We will work with you to supply to your needs and will endeavour to supply for trauma and surgical cover.

We have platelets coming through production that we expect will resolve the situation. We will continue to monitor progress and will keep you updated on stock levels and deliveries should the situation change.

We are not at Amber conditions. We are not asking you to invoke your emergency plans.

Hospital Action:

1. Please be vigilant in reviewing the appropriateness of requests for platelets, especially any requests for double dose platelets. Ensure that wastage is kept to a minimum and stock is held only where essential for patient safety.
2. When placing your order, please indicate the date and time you require the platelets for transfusion. Please let our Hospital Services team know immediately if the urgency of any order changes.
3. When a platelet has been ordered it may not arrive on your routine round and may be sent by free ad-hoc at a later time. Your platelet order may arrive from a different issuing site.
4. Please refer to the following link for additional advice [platelets across blood groups](#)

We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause and thank you for helping us to resolve this issue.

Please forward this letter to your Consultant lead for transfusion and cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

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