

URGENT COMMUNICATION

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

Date: 07 June 2018

To: **Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Consultant Haematologist with responsibility for Blood Transfusion**

Dear Colleague,

Red Cell Stock Levels: O D negative and B D negative

Thank you for your support over the last week whilst we have been faced with low stock levels of both O D negative and B D negative red cells. A reduction in demand across both groups has helped, but stock levels of these particular groups remain a concern. To ensure continued supply for all, we would be grateful for your continued support.

Please note we are not implementing the shortage plan for red cells.

What we are doing;

We are contacting more O D negative and B D negative donors and making more appointments available at our sessions.

Our ongoing ask is:

1. Please try and reduce your stock levels for O D negative and B D negative red cells if it is safe to do so. A reduction of 1 day or 10% across a large number of sites would increase NHSBT's central stockholding in the short term whilst the anticipated increase in donations occurs.
2. Ensure appropriate use is consistently applied and continue to minimise waste.
3. Accept appropriate substitutions when offered.
4. Consider single-unit red cell transfusion where appropriate - NICE guidelines.
5. Conserve O D negative red cells for group O D negative patients in line with established guidelines.

We really appreciate your support and thank you in anticipation of your ongoing help.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service 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,

Louise Sherliker
National Lead, Patient Blood Management Team
Email: louise.sherliker@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Dr Edwin Massey
Associate Medical Director
Email : edwin.massey@nhsbt.nhs.uk