

## URGENT COMMUNICATION

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

Date: 11 July 2018

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

Dear Colleague,

### Stock levels of O D negative red cells

Our stocks of O D negative red cells remain very low. The current heat wave and England's success in the World Cup are having a significant impact on donor attendance. We are running national campaigns to encourage donor attendance to sessions and prioritising appointments for O D negative donors. We are also maximising manufacturing activity.

**However, we are very concerned about our stock levels particularly over the next few days and are doing all that we can to avoid activating the red cell shortage plan.**

We are very grateful to hospitals that have reduced their O D negative stock holding, however, demand for O D negative remains strong.

### Our immediate ask of all hospitals is:

1. Reduction of stock levels for O 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 our central stockholding in the short term.
2. Accept appropriate substitutions when offered.
3. Consider single-unit red cell transfusion where appropriate - NICE guidelines.
4. Conserve O D negative red cells for group O D negative patients in line with established guidelines.

We really appreciate your support and ongoing help. We will keep this situation under continual review and provide updates as appropriate.

**Please note at this stage we are not implementing the shortage plan for red cells.**

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,

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