



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** December 17, 2024  
**Re:** Critical Level for O Rh-Negative Red Cells

## Background

The O Rh negative red blood cell inventory has remained at considerably lower than optimal levels over the last sixty days; however, daily collections have been sufficient to meet and fill orders. Regrettably, the increased demand of O negative RBCs along with reduced donor turnout and low future collection projections have resulted in a ***critical O Rh-negative level***.

## Client Action Required

- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services to triage the order appropriately.
- O Rh-negative red cells included in red cell rotation and standing orders could be postponed or cancelled until the supply is deemed stable and will be stocked at minimal levels.
- Please maintain your O Rh-negative stock inventory at minimal levels.
- Please include crossmatched units in your stock inventory quantity.
- Please consider releasing O Rh-negative crossmatched units 24 hours after procedure.
- Please consider crossmatching the same O Rh-negative unit to multiple patients.
- Facilities should have a policy for use of Rh-positive red cells in Rh-negative or unknown blood type individuals to preserve the limited O negative red blood cell supply. Please see [AABB's recommendations on the Use of Group O Red Blood Cells](#).
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable.

## Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact [hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org) with any concerns.