



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** January 7, 2025  
**Re:** Winter Storm and the Blood Supply

### **Background**

Carter BloodCare is actively monitoring the forecasted winter weather expected to arrive Thursday, January 9, 2024. Donor center and mobile drive operations are expected to be impacted. Historically, donor participation during winter weather events is inadequate to maintain inventory levels. Rh-negative red blood cells are at critical levels and will not recover until after the upcoming weather event.

### **Impact to Clients**

- **Only STAT orders will be shipped during hazardous driving conditions.**
- Daily red cell and platelet stock orders are expected to be triaged.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell, platelet rotation, and standing orders will be re-scheduled or delayed.
- Driving conditions will delay blood product deliveries.

### **Client Action Required**

- Be judicious when placing orders for products as current inventory levels do not support the ability to overstock red cells and platelets.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the current supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders may be triaged.
- Be prepared to release red cells or platelets to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs *elsewhere* as the blood center inventory may not be able to support.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

### **Questions and Additional Information:**

Your understanding has been sincerely appreciated and we are grateful for the partnerships that we enjoy with you in the service of your patients.

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