



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: April 24, 2025
Re: Rh Negative Red Blood Cell Inventory Levels

Background

An unexpected increase in demand for Rh negative red blood cells has outpaced collection rates. The Rh-negative red blood cell supply is below optimal levels with some blood types approaching critical levels.

Low Rh-negative Red Cell Inventory to Highlight:

O Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 23% of optimal.
A Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 19% of optimal
B Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 14% of optimal.

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell orders containing Rh-negative red cell units will be triaged.
- 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 Rh-negative stock inventory at minimal levels.
- Please include crossmatched units in your stock inventory quantity.
- Please consider releasing Rh-negative crossmatched units 24 hours after procedure.
- Please consider crossmatching the same 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 Rh negative red blood cell supply.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable.
- As a reminder, back orders are cancelled at midnight each day to minimize duplication and should be re-ordered as appropriate.

Client Action Required

- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the current supply.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood. The following toolkit is available for your use to help drive awareness and blood donations.
[Carter BloodCare Share the Need](#)

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.