

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 8, 2026
Re: Rh Negative Red Blood Cell and LTOWB Inventory Levels

Background

The Rh-negative red blood cell and low titer group O whole blood (LTOWB) supply are below optimal levels. Collections are typically lower during the holiday season and begin to recover as we move through the month of January.

Low Rh-negative Red Cell Inventory to Highlight:

O Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 30% of optimal.
A Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 35% of optimal
B Negative Red Cell Inventory is at 34% of optimal.

LTOWB demand is currently outpacing capacity to collect these specialty units. Please be prepared to accept an O positive red cell and group A liquid plasma unit in place of LTOWB until inventory recovers.

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell orders containing Rh-negative red cell units may 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.
- LTOWB standing orders may be cancelled or postponed.
- 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.