



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 21, 2026
Re: Winter Storm and the Blood Supply

Background

Carter BloodCare is actively monitoring the forecasted winter weather expected to arrive Friday, January 23, 2026. 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 cells remain below optimal inventory levels.

Please place requests for all routine and ASAP orders before 1000 on Friday, January 23, 2026, to allow the Hospital Services department to process and complete these requests before hazardous driving conditions arrive in the area. **Only STAT orders will be shipped during hazardous driving conditions.**

Additional Impact to Clients

- 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 are expected to be re-scheduled or delayed.
- The daily blood product inventory following the days after the winter weather is expected to be impacted due to limited or no collections during the event.
- **Driving conditions will delay all blood product deliveries.**

Client Action Required

- Be judicious when placing orders for products as current inventory levels do not support the ability to overstock Rh-negative red cells and platelets.
- Be prepared to accept cold stored platelets during the winter weather event, and the days following the event, until collections resume to normal operations.
- 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 with any concerns.