



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: November 18, 2019
Re: Rh Negative Red Cell Inventory

Overview:

The demand for Rh negative red blood cells has continued to outpace our capability. Donor collections in the past several weeks, in spite of earnest efforts, have fallen short of regaining optimal inventory levels. With the upcoming holiday, Rh negative red blood cells, specifically Group O Rh negative, will reach dangerously low levels. Carter BloodCare is working with press, TV, and digital/social media partners to assist with community awareness of the need for blood.

Impact to Clients:

- Please maintain your Rh negative stock inventory at minimal levels for the next ten days. Please include crossmatched units in your stock inventory quantity.
- Please consider releasing un-transfused Rh negative crossmatched units 24 hours after procedure.
- Please conserve O Rh negative red cells by transfusing O negative to O negative patients only.
- Please consider utilizing group O Rh positive red cells to meet MTP requests (as applicable).
- Please consider crossmatching the same Rh negative unit to multiple patients.

Client Action Required:

- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable.
- Cooperate with hospital services each order for Rh negative red blood cells is triaged.
- Be prepared to release group O Rh negative red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs.
- Encourage family, friends, and colleagues to donate blood.

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns. By working together we can safely sustain operations.