



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: May 18, 2020
Re: Red Cell Inventory

Overview

Carter BloodCare has declared the state of the community blood supply ***critical***. As the COVID-19 pandemic arose, the blood supply was in jeopardy because the majority of blood is collected at blood drives. Schools and other businesses were left with no choice but to cancel drives. This caused national leaders to promote the need for blood donation to fill the gap stemming from the cancelled blood drives. The immediate community response was overwhelming, but not sustainable.

Blood demand is increasing as hospitals resume elective procedures; however, schools remain closed and businesses are limited in capabilities and capacity to host blood drives.

Impact to Clients

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

Client Action Required

- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as blood orders are triaged.
- Be prepared to release group O Rh negative and positive 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.