



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: November 25, 2020
Re: Blood Supply

Background

Historically, the community blood supply becomes temporarily disrupted around the holidays as seasonal illness; travel and time constraints take priority and are inevitable. This year is different as the pandemic has intensified the instability of the blood supply. We continue to experience blood drive cancellations along with decreased donor presentations. We cannot meet all patient transfusion needs without your help. Please review inventory levels for all components, i.e., red cells, cryoprecipitate, and plasma; and preserve the limited supply by maintaining minimal levels of preferred stock levels.

Aggressive efforts to boost the blood supply are underway, but relief will not be immediate. Import opportunities are limited as all blood centers are experiencing the same challenges. Additionally, Carter BloodCare collections are closed on Thanksgiving to allow employees time with their families.

Impact to Clients

- Red cell, plasma, and cryoprecipitate orders will be triaged.
- Red cell stock and standing orders may be discontinued until the supply is deemed stable.
- Apheresis platelet inventory is optimal, but with no collections tomorrow, availability will be limited.

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 red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs should our inventory not be able to support.
- 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.