



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 12, 2021
Re: Blood Supply

Background

On December 29, 2020, we communicated that the community blood supply was limited. Regrettably, the status of the blood supply remains unchanged. We continue to fill orders with the previous day's collections, leaving the blood center with minimal inventory on the shelf. Red cell collection projections are fair; however, with over 100 cancelled blood drives resulting in a loss of about 3,500 units since January 1 along with limited opportunities to host blood drives, we are not able to rebuild the blood supply.

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell stock orders will be filled after units are released from processing and labeling which is typically mid-afternoon. Please expect a delay in receipt.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services for triage.
- Red cell rotation and standing orders could be postponed or discontinued until the supply is deemed stable and will be stocked only to minimal levels.

Client Action Required

- Reduce red cell inventory levels to preserve the limited supply.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the minimal supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as blood orders are triaged.
- Back orders are cancelled at midnight and must be re-ordered as appropriate.
- Be prepared to release group O red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs elsewhere should the blood center inventory not be able to support.
- The need is *urgent*. Please 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.