



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: February 16, 2021
Re: Mandatory Pick-up of Platelets

Background

The winter weather event has left us dealing with an unprecedented and dire inventory situation. While we are actively searching for import opportunities for red cells and platelets, there is very limited excess inventory available throughout the nation.

Multiple days with zero collections combined with the short shelf-life of platelets, has left us now facing empty shelves with limited options. We need your help. Your stewardship of the limited platelet inventory available at your hospital is crucial and necessary to ensure that imminent platelet transfusion needs can be met throughout the community. As a result, stock orders for platelets are temporarily discontinued. We urge you to develop a triage plan to manage platelet transfusion needs.

Additionally, in order to meet trauma and emergency platelet transfusion needs, we must enforce a mandatory recovery of platelets from those hospitals that maintain platelets on-site, but with historically less than 50% usage of those platelets. Please expect a Carter BloodCare representative to be on-site to pick-up platelet products.

As we prepare for another round of winter storms tomorrow, this will leave us with yet another day of zero collections. Please also plan for Carter BloodCare to possibly apply mandatory return of group O red blood cells to meet emergency and trauma transfusion needs.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.