



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: February 17, 2021
Re: Apheresis Platelets and Group O Red Cells

Background

As of today, Wednesday, February 17th, over 300 mobile blood drives were canceled and our donor centers were closed Sunday – Wednesday leaving us managing a situation unlike one we have ever experienced – no available platelet products for distribution Thursday (2/18) and Friday (2/19). While we anticipate operating with limited capacity beginning tomorrow, platelets collected tomorrow will not be ready to distribute until after bacterial testing is completed on Saturday (2/20).

Impact to Clients

- Minimal to zero apheresis platelets and group O red cells available for distribution Thursday and Friday.
- Red cell and platelet rotation and standing orders are temporarily discontinued.
- We are actively searching for import opportunities, but there are very limited options.

Client Action Required

- Notify stakeholders as appropriate.
- Implement a product conservation plan.
- Review platelet transfusion policies and be prepared to use a platelet beyond its expiration date with MD approval in life-threatening situations.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders will be triaged.
- Be prepared to share your blood inventory with facilities treating the most medically urgent patients as needed.
- The need is critical. Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood once normal operations resume.

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.