



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: February 23, 2021
Re: Blood Supply

Background

The status of the blood supply is at critical levels due to the loss of collections experienced last week. At this time, there are less than 10 group O red cells on-site with over a 150 units on back order. We are able to fill orders, but only after the previous day's collections are processed and labeled. Red cell collection projections for the remainder of the week are good, but it will take time to rebuild the blood supply. Carter BloodCare does not hesitate to bring in product from other blood centers; however, there are very limited import opportunities.

Impact to Clients

- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services for triage.
- Daily red cell stock orders will be filled after units are released from processing and labeling which is typically mid-afternoon. Please recognize that every hospital in our service area is in need of red cells, specifically Group O. We will only be able to fill orders at minimal levels.
- Until the blood supply is stable, red cell rotation and standing orders might be postponed, discontinued or stocked only to minimal levels.
- Pooled cryoprecipitate is unavailable.
- Group A and AB plasma is very limited.
- Apheresis platelet inventory is optimal.

Client Action Required

- Notify stakeholders as applicable.
- Reduce red cell inventory levels to preserve the limited supply.
- Review elective surgical procedures with anticipation that you will not have the optimal level of red cells on-site.
- Implement a triage process to help manage the minimal supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all orders will be triaged.
- Back orders are cancelled at midnight and must be re-ordered as appropriate.
- Be prepared to share group O red blood cells to meet the most urgent patient needs.
- The need is *critical*. 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.