



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** May 18, 2021  
**Re:** Group O Blood Supply

### **Background**

As communicated through the daily inventory status update, Group O red cells have consistently remained at <10% of optimal inventory. While we are able to fill orders, it is only after the previous day's collections are processed and labeled. Group O red cell increased demand along with a slight decrease in collections is now causing a chronic deficit in our capability to fill orders as requested.

### **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 will be filled proportional to daily inventory.

### **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 *urgent*. Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

### **Questions and Additional Information:**

Please contact [hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org) with any concerns.