



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: June 7, 2021
Re: Blood Supply

Background

As previously communicated on May 18th, 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 sustained decrease in collections has pushed us to a critical inventory status. Red blood cell orders cannot be filled at current demand levels.

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 (at minimal levels) 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 to minimal levels.
- Until the blood supply is stable, red cell rotation and standing orders will be filled proportional to daily inventory.

Client Action Required

- Elevate your voice by sharing how a critical blood supply impacts you and the patients you serve. Contact our public relations team at mediarelations@carterbloodcare.org for a collaboration effort.
- 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 situation is **critical** and **nationwide**. Our inventory cannot be restored by importing from other blood centers.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.