

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: June 17, 2021
Re: Critical and Nationwide Blood Shortage

Background

As previously communicated on June 7th, the demand for Group O red blood cells has continued to outpace our capability. Donor collections in the past several weeks, in spite of earnest efforts, have fallen short of rebuilding inventory levels. **Red blood cell inventory is at dangerously low levels and orders cannot be filled at current demand levels.** Carter BloodCare is working with press, TV, and digital/social media partners to assist with community awareness of the need for blood. But we cannot do this alone, please consider sharing the severity of the blood supply with your communications teams in an effort to raise public awareness.

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 only be filled proportionally to daily inventory. 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 could be discontinued.

Client Action Required

- Review elective surgical procedures with anticipation that you will not have the optimal level of red cells on-site.
- The situation is critical and nationwide. Our inventory cannot be restored by importing from other blood centers. Please review the attached joint press release regarding the nationwide shortage.
- Be prepared to share group O red blood cells to meet the most urgent patient needs.
- Implement a triage process to help manage the critical supply.
- Be prepared to share group O red blood cells to meet the most urgent patient needs.
- Please maintain your group O inventory at minimal levels. Please include crossmatched units in your stock inventory quantity.
- Please consider releasing un-transfused group O crossmatched units 24 hours after procedure.
- Please conserve group O to group O patients only.
- Please consider crossmatching the same group O red cell to multiple patients.
- Review the quantity of red cell units in your MTP and decrease appropriately.
- Consider updating the stock levels for Group O red cells at least until the situation has improved.

- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

Questions and Additional Information:

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.