

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 12, 2022
Re: Critical Red Blood Cell Inventory

Background

Previously we sent out notification that the red blood cell inventory had reached a critically low level. Donor collections have been very low over the past few weeks, which is impacting the red blood cell inventory in particular. Current red cell orders should expect to be backordered and not filled until additional inventory is released later in the day.



At Present:

O Positive Red Cell Inventory is at <10% of Optimal.
O Negative Red Cell Inventory is at <10% of Optimal.
A Positive Red Cell Inventory is at 35% of Optimal.
A Negative Red Cell Inventory is at <10% of Optimal.
B Positive Red Cell Inventory is at <10% of Optimal.
B Negative Red Cell Inventory is at <10% of Optimal

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell stock orders will be filled proportionally to the daily inventory.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services for triage.
- Red cell rotation and standing orders could be postponed or discontinued until the supply is deemed stable and will be stocked only to minimal levels.

Client Action Required

- **Reduce** red cell inventory levels to preserve the limited supply.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the minimal supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as blood orders are triaged.
- Back orders are cancelled at midnight and must be re-ordered as appropriate.
- Be prepared to release group O red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs elsewhere should the blood center inventory not be able to support.
- The need is *critical*. Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood. The following toolkit is available for your use to help drive awareness and blood donations. [Carter BloodCare Critical Toolkit](#)

Questions and Additional Information:

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns. By working together we can safely sustain operations.