



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: February 23, 2022
Re: Winter Storm and the Blood Supply

Background

Carter BloodCare is actively monitoring the current winter weather event. Donor center and mobile drive operations in the North Texas area will be closed early today February 23, 2022, and have been cancelled for Thursday, February 24, 2022. East Texas and Central Texas locations will maintain normal operations at this time. These closures will affect our operations and blood availability. Platelets are expected to be of particular concern entering next week.

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell and platelet stock orders could be triaged.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell, platelet rotation, and standing orders may be re-scheduled or delayed.
- Hazardous driving conditions could delay blood product deliveries.

Client Action Required

- Be judicious when placing orders for products as current inventory levels do not support the ability to overstock red cells and platelets.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders may be triaged.
- Be prepared to release red cells or platelets to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs *elsewhere* as the blood center inventory may not be able to support.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

Questions and Additional Information:

Your understanding has been sincerely appreciated and we are grateful for the partnerships that we enjoy with you in the service of your patients.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.