



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations Department  
**Date:** March 31, 2022  
**Re:** Return of Outdated Red Cell Units

### **Background**

Historically, Carter BloodCare will extend credit for red cell units that have outdated at your facility for specific cause and prior-approval. In the past, these units were not returned to Carter BloodCare. Effective immediately, Carter BloodCare requires these expired units to be returned to the blood center in order for credit to be considered *and* extended. These units are processed for further research and reagent development.

**The following only applies to red cell units (eligible for credit) that have outdated at your facility. The normal process for return of in-dated red cells has not changed.**

- Red cell units should be maintained at their normal storage temperature post-expiration.
- When requesting credit for an expired red cell unit, a credit request must still accompany returned units via the Hospital Report of Returned Blood Components to Carter BloodCare form.
- The Distribution department should be notified of the need to return expired red cell units through phone call or by faxing the Hospital Report of Returned Blood Components.
- Every attempt will be made to pick up the outdated unit(s) within 3 to 5 days of notification.
- Please keep in mind, any product manipulated by your facility such as irradiation and aliquotting are not eligible for credit per the Carter BloodCare return policy. These units should not be returned to Carter BloodCare once expired or a credit requested for these units.

This notification aligns with the apheresis platelet return communication.

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

Your understanding is sincerely appreciated.

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