

**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** July 22, 2022  
**Re:** **Critical – O Negative Red Cell Supply**

### **Background**

The group O Rh negative red blood cell inventory has reached critically low levels and there are no import opportunities to help supplement the local inventory at this time. The daily demand significantly outpaces the summer daily collections and future projections. This past week we have consistently experienced back orders for group O Rh negative red cells at an average of 60 per day.

### **Impact to Clients**

- Group O Rh negative red cell 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.
- Group O Rh negative red cells included in 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 Group O Rh negative** red cell inventory levels to preserve the limited supply for transfusion needs.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director. Implement a triage process to help manage the minimal supply.
- Please cooperate with Carter BloodCare's hospital services team as blood orders are triaged.
- Back orders are cancelled at midnight and must be re-ordered as appropriate.
- Be prepared to release group O Rh negative red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs elsewhere should the blood center inventory not be able to support.
- 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 Share the Need Toolkit.](#)

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

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