

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: October 6, 2022
Re: **Critical – O Negative Red Cell and Platelet Supply**

Background

The group O Rh negative red blood cell and platelet supply have reached critically low levels.

The daily demand continues to outpace daily collections. Current projections do not allow for replenishment of inventory. We are currently experiencing back orders for group O Rh negative red cells. Group O Rh negative inventory is at <10% of optimal inventory.

Platelet inventory is also depleted, and daily demands cannot be filled based on current projections. We are attempting to supplement inventory by importing platelets, but full inventory recovery is not expected throughout the remainder of the week.

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 stable and will be stocked only to minimal levels.
- Platelet stock maintained on-site should be re-evaluated and reduced during this time.
- Cold-stored platelets could be substituted if there is an insistence to provide a specific quantity of platelets.
- Carter BloodCare medical directors are available for consultation.
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Client Action Required

- **Reduce Group O Rh negative red cell and platelet 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 for red cells are cancelled at midnight and must be re-ordered.
- 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. Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns. By working together, we can safely sustain operations.