



To: Carter BloodCare Customers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: November 3, 2022
Re: UPDATE - Critical Local and Nationwide Blood Bag

Background

This is an update regarding the critical local and nationwide blood bag shortage previously communicated on October 28, 2022. Carter BloodCare was successful in finding alternative solutions which would minimize impact to your current workflow and transfusion practices. Carter BloodCare was able to secure an alternative leukoreduction filter associated with the collection of double red cells and therefore, we do not anticipate having to distribute non-leukoreduced red cells.

The 42-day red cell bags continue to be in short supply and are provided to Carter BloodCare through weekly allocations. To ensure we can continue to collect whole blood donations at the same pace, we are validating an alternative FDA approved whole blood bag collection kit. This collection kit does contain ADSOL[®] but has only received FDA approval for a 35-day shelf-life. The FDA is aware of the blood bag shortage and recognizes the importance to expedite approval to a 42-day red cell expiration.

Impact to Hospital Customers

- Prepare to receive the 35-day red cell unit. We intend to begin distribution of these units by November 21, 2022.
- The 35-day red cell unit does not have a different, unique product code. Units will contain the same ISBT product code, but with the 35-day expiration.
- The 35-day red cell units will have a manilla tie-tag with the date of collection attached.
- We do not intend to distribute non-leukoreduced red cells at this time.

Questions and Additional Information:

We will keep you posted on any changes to the blood bag inventories.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.