



To: Carter BloodCare Customers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: November 11, 2022
Re: UPDATE - Blood Bag Shortage

Update

Carter BloodCare is pleased to announce that the FDA approved the alternative blood bag collection kit for 42-day RBC storage. This should alleviate any alternative plans that need to be made in accepting a 35-day red cell unit. Carter BloodCare continues to work diligently to minimize impact to our clients during the current blood bag shortage. If any additional alternative plans need to be made, those will be communicated to you.

Previous Communication 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.