

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: **Critical – Rh Negative Red Cell and Platelet Supply**

Background

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

The daily demand continues to outpace daily collections. We are importing to supplement inventory where available.

Impact to Clients

- Group O, A, and B 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, A, and B 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 at minimal levels.
- Platelet stock maintained on-site should be re-evaluated and reduced during this time.
- Facilities with historically lower platelet utilization may not receive a platelet to stock on site during this time.
- Carter BloodCare medical directors are available for consultation.

Client Action Required

- **Reduce Group O, A, and B 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, A, and B Rh negative red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs elsewhere should the blood center inventory not be able to support.
- Rh negative red cells should be prioritized for females of childbearing age potential and Rh-negative individuals. Facilities should have a policy for use of Rh-positive red cells in Rh negative or unknown blood type individuals to preserve the limited Rh negative red blood cell supply.
- 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.