



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 11, 2024
Re: Winter Storm and the Blood Supply

Background

Carter BloodCare is actively monitoring the forecasted winter weather expected to arrive Sunday, January 14, 2024. Donor center and mobile drive operations are expected to be impacted Sunday, January 14, 2024, through Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Historically, donor participation during winter weather events is inadequate to maintain inventory levels. O positive, B positive, and all Rh-negative red blood cells are expected to be at critical levels. Platelet inventory is expected to remain at critical levels through the end of next week until inventory can recover.

Impact to Clients

- Daily red cell and platelet stock orders are expected to be triaged.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell, platelet rotation, and standing orders could be re-scheduled or delayed.
- Hazardous driving conditions could delay blood product deliveries.

Client Action Required

- Be judicious when placing orders for products as current inventory levels do not support the ability to overstock red cells and platelets.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the current supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders may be triaged.
- Be prepared to release red cells or platelets to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs *elsewhere* as the blood center inventory may not be able to support.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood.

Questions and Additional Information:

Your understanding has been sincerely appreciated and we are grateful for the partnerships that we enjoy with you in the service of your patients.

Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.