

MEMO

DATE: 2021-07-07

TO: Saskatchewan Clinical Care Providers

FROM: Dr. Sheila Rutledge Harding, Provincial Clinical Lead, Transfusion Medicine

RE: NATIONAL GREEN PHASE ADVISORY DECLARATION – O NEGATIVE RED BLOOD CELL INVENTORY

Dear Colleagues:

This is a notice of a **Green Phase Advisory impacting Group O Negative Red Blood Cells (RBC)** declared by the National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC) on July 7, 2021. Decreased donor attendance combined with an increase in national Group O Negative RBC demand in response to eased COVID-19 restrictions have led to a supply concern expected to last up to 4 weeks. Please see the appended NEBMC Shortage Advisory for details.

Adherence with strategies to ensure optimal utilization of RBC is essential to ensure the availability of supply for patients requiring transfusion in urgent or emergent situations. We encourage everyone to review the provincial Transfusion Best Practice Recommendations, found here: <http://saskblood.ca/transfusion-best-practice-recommendations/>

We request your cooperation with implementation of the following strategies to help protect our inventory:

Red Blood Cells:

- The decision to transfuse RBC should be in accordance with a restrictive strategy.
- Requests for RBC transfusion to anemic hospitalized inpatients (without ongoing bleeding) will be restricted to 1 unit at a time.
- In the setting of new patients with hemorrhage, blood group specimens must be drawn on arrival to allow for provision of group specific RBC as soon as possible.
 - Uncrossmatched Group O Negative RBC will be issued for transfusion to women under 50 years of age;
 - Uncrossmatched Group O Positive RBC will be issued to men and women 50 and older, in accordance with best practice recommendations (*Exception: sites stocking only Group O negative RBC*);
- If a patient is likely to require significant (greater than 4 units) of Group O Negative RBC, please notify your local blood bank of the situation as soon as possible, to ensure appropriate preparedness and component availability.

Blood donation is encouraged to help Canadian Blood Services replenish their supply.

Safety | Accountability | Respect | Collaboration | Compassion

With a commitment to a philosophy of Patient and Family Centred Care

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Further communication and updates will be forthcoming. Full details of the National Plan for Management of Shortages of Labile Blood Components can be found at <https://nacblood.ca/resources/shortages-plan/index.html>

Please disseminate this information to departments or teams who may be impacted by this advisory.

If consultation with Transfusion Medicine is required by medical or laboratory staff, please contact the physician on-call for Transfusion Medicine in your area (see table below).

Thank you for your partnership as stewards of this precious resource.

 Provincial Transfusion Medicine Medical Consultation <i>Ask for the physician on call for Transfusion Medicine</i>
Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan 306-655-1000
Regina and Southern Saskatchewan 306-766-4444