



To: Saskatchewan Senior Medical Officer Committee
From: Saskatchewan Provincial Transfusion Medicine Service
Date: January 12, 2018
RE: CBS GREEN PHASE ADVISORY

Dear colleagues:

As of today, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has declared a **Green Phase Blood Shortage Advisory impacting Group O Negative red blood cells**. At this time, all other blood groups and components are in adequate supply. Please see the appended CBS Shortage Advisory for details.

The **Green Phase Blood Shortage Advisory** is a mild shortage in which CBS cannot meet the optimal inventory requirements of hospitals across the country. As a result, hospitals throughout the country have been asked to cut their inventory levels for group O red cells by 10% to help balance the national inventory. Sites holding only a minimum stock of blood are excluded from this inventory reduction request. **At this time, clinical practice at the hospital level remains unaffected.**

The existing blood supply in Saskatchewan will be monitored carefully. We have the following requests to help protect our inventory:

- 1) Requests for red blood cell transfusion to anemic hospitalized inpatients (without ongoing bleeding) should be restricted to 1 unit at a time.
- 2) In the setting of new patients with hemorrhage, please ensure blood group specimens are drawn on arrival to allow for provision of group specific cells as soon as possible. Uncrossmatched Group O Negative red cells will be available, but requests for more than 2 units of uncrossmatched group O blood will be subject to transfusion medicine approval in Saskatoon and Regina.
- 3) If a patient is likely to require significant (greater than 4 units) of Group O Negative red blood cells, please notify your local blood bank of the situation as soon as possible, to ensure appropriate preparedness and availability of blood components.

It is anticipated that this advisory will be in effect for at least the next week. Further communication and updates will be available at www.saskblood.ca. Full details of the National Plan for Management of Shortages of Labile Blood Components can be found at www.nacblood.ca.

Blood donation – particularly from Group O individuals – is encouraged to help CBS replenish their supply and prepare for any emergency demands that may arise.

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.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Saskatchewan Transfusion Medicine Working Group



Provincial Transfusion Medicine Medical Consultation
Ask for the physician on call for Transfusion Medicine

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