



Blood and Transplant

To: Chief Executive, Medical Director, Transfusion Laboratory Manager, Transfusion Practitioner, Chair of RTC, Chair of HTC, Consultant Haematologist with Responsibility for Blood Transfusion and England EPRR

12 October 2022

RED CELL SHORTAGE - AMBER ALERT NOTICE

Dear Colleagues,

We are moving to Amber alert status and asking you to implement your Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for red cells at the Amber shortage level. We request that actions are implemented with immediate effect or by Friday 14 October at the latest.

Thank you for your ongoing support whilst we have been taking action to avert a move to Amber alert level. Unfortunately, our red cell stock levels are now at a point where we expect to drop below the two-day threshold.

We will remove the alert once we are confident that stocks have reached a sustainable level but anticipate this will continue for a minimum of 4 weeks.

Hospital Action:

1. Implement your hospital Emergency Blood Management Arrangements for an Amber shortage status and continue to consider transfusion for only those patients in categories one and two of the [NBTC red cell shortage plan](#)
2. Postpone elective surgery which is likely to require donor blood support – category three patients in the shortage plan
3. Ensure Amber level actions in the [EBMA checklist](#) are implemented. An [Amber Level Screen Saver](#) is available for you to promote awareness
4. If you haven't already done so, reduce your stock holding where possible for the duration of this alert. A small reduction will make a big difference to national stocks. The Blood Stocks Management Scheme are available to help and advise on red cell stock reductions.
5. Ensure you have arrangements in place to respond to any potential future red status alert.

Our stock levels are updated on our website Monday to Friday, you can see them [here](#).

Our Donor Experience team are promoting donation where we have capacity and specifically focussing on group O donors. Local media is being used alongside direct marketing to donors in these areas. This is the most effective way to ensure the right donors can donate in the right location to maximise our capacity. Details can be found on blood.co.uk.

If you would like to donate right now [See city centre locations with spaces.](#)

We apologise for the extra work and inconvenience these restrictions will cause. We are working hard to rectify the situation and will update you regularly.

If you have any questions, please contact your Customer Service Manager or Patient Blood Management Practitioner.

Alternatively phone our Response Desk on 0208 201 3107, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday; we'll be pleased to help.

Please cascade to laboratory and clinical staff as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Farrukh Shah
Medical Director – Transfusion
NHS Blood and Transplant

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh
Chair of the NBTC
National Blood Transfusion Committee

