



URGENT: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

To: ALL HOSPITAL SITES
From: National Emergency Blood Management Committee*
Subject: AMBER PHASE ADVISORY

National Inventory Advisory

Date and time of issue	2022-12-23 1500 (ET)
Inventory Availability Phase	AMBER PHASE ADVISORY
Product(s)	Red blood cells and Platelets
Description	<p>National inventory levels for red blood cells and platelets have shifted lower in recent days and combined with logistical constraints due to weather across the country, the inventory and supply situation is precarious.</p> <p>Canadian Blood Services is constrained logistically. Decreased blood collections performance (due to appointment cancellations, donor deferrals due to travel and no-shows) and an unanticipated increase in demand are being compounded by logistical challenges moving product regionally are affecting Canadian Blood Services' ability to service hospitals optimally. The pace of recovery is forecasted to be gradual and significant regional variation may require Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committees (PEBMC) to convene. In addition to regular Amber Phase activities, the PEBMC should identify hospitals in highest need to inform Canadian Blood Services' actions and activities locally to provide product and target donor recruitment.</p> <p>Given the situation, it is critical to monitor inventory levels at Canadian Blood Services and hospitals collectively. The Amber Phase Advisory will remain in effect until inventory information from hospitals is received and assessed. The advisory may be downgraded should the comprehensive inventory data reassure the NEBMC that sufficient levels exist nationally.</p>
Impact on hospitals	<p><u>Action Required:</u></p> <p>All hospitals must provide inventory levels for all RBC blood groups starting today Dec 23rd.</p> <p>Dec 23rd – report inventory levels by 7pm ET Dec 24th – report inventory levels by 12 noon ET Dec 25th – no reporting required Dec 26th – report inventory levels by 12 noon ET</p> <p>Hospital inventory is to be reported via the Canadian Blood Services Hospital Portal Login (b2clogin.com), or in accordance with usual provincial practices (British Columbia and Manitoba).</p>

	<p>It is strongly recommended that hospitals follow best practice and appropriate use recommendations as follows:</p> <p>O negative RBC: Hospitals are asked to ensure the utilization of O negative red blood cells continue to follow best practice at all times as outlined in the <i>National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products</i> statement for the: Utilization and inventory management of Grp O RH(D)-negative red cells.</p> <p>All Rh negative RBC: Additionally, the NEBMC recommends the following best practices for all RhD-negative red blood cells, which are particularly important for B negative red blood cells due to current low inventory levels.</p> <p>Recommendations for appropriate use of RhD negative RBCs for ALL BLOOD GROUPS</p> <table><tr><td>Mandatory indications: RhD negative RBCs should always be used for these indications</td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals of child-bearing potential (45 years of age and younger)• Individuals with allogeneic anti-D</td></tr><tr><td>Highly recommended indications. When possible, RhD negative RBCs should likely be used for these indications</td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals (any age) who are expected to receive chronic RBC transfusions (for example, individuals with hemoglobinopathies or with chronic transfusion requirement)</td></tr><tr><td>Generally acceptable indications. The use of RhD negative RBCs may be considered acceptable for these indications, but RhD positive RBCs should especially be considered when supply is severely constrained</td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals with no child-bearing potential requiring non-massive transfusion</td></tr><tr><td>Likely unacceptable indications. The use of RhD negative RBCs is likely unacceptable for these indications when supply constrained.</td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any RhD negative individuals without allo anti-D and no childbearing potential requiring a large volume transfusion (defined as greater than 4-6 units)</td></tr></table>	Mandatory indications: RhD negative RBCs should always be used for these indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals of child-bearing potential (45 years of age and younger)• Individuals with allogeneic anti-D	Highly recommended indications. When possible, RhD negative RBCs should likely be used for these indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals (any age) who are expected to receive chronic RBC transfusions (for example, individuals with hemoglobinopathies or with chronic transfusion requirement)	Generally acceptable indications. The use of RhD negative RBCs may be considered acceptable for these indications, but RhD positive RBCs should especially be considered when supply is severely constrained	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RhD negative individuals with no child-bearing potential requiring non-massive transfusion	Likely unacceptable indications. The use of RhD negative RBCs is likely unacceptable for these indications when supply constrained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any RhD negative individuals without allo anti-D and no childbearing potential requiring a large volume transfusion (defined as greater than 4-6 units)
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For more information	<p>For additional info, contact:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Your Hospital Liaison Specialist, Canadian Blood Services2. Your representative to the Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committee3. Your representative to your Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee								

*The National Emergency Blood Management Committee is comprised of the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products, Provincial Territorial Blood Liaison representatives and key Canadian Blood Services personnel. This group will develop recommendations and provide advice to the P/T Ministries of Health, hospitals and regional health authorities, and Canadian Blood Services to support a consistent and coordinated response to critical blood shortages in Canada.

For information about the National Blood Shortages Plan, please see: [Blood Shortage | National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products \(NAC\) \(nacblood.ca\)](#). If you require this advisory in an accessible format, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.