

**URGENT: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED** 

To: ALL HOSPITAL SITES

From: National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC)\*

Subject: GREEN PHASE ADVISORY

## **National Inventory Advisory**

| Date and time of issue             | 2023-09-13 6:00am (EST)   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Inventory<br>Availability<br>Phase | Continuation of GREEN PHASE ADVISORY  |
| Product(s)                         | O red blood cells (Rh positive and negative)  |
| Description                        | The Green Phase Advisory declared on June 16, 2023, remains in effect for group O red blood cells (Rh positive and negative).   |
|                                    | Canadian Blood Services' inventory levels remain low, despite continuing interventions to improve inventory positions at hospitals and collections at Canadian Blood Services. Hospital demand continues to outpace supply, given supply challenges and ongoing hospital demand, which constrains inventory growth. While national system inventory remains stable, it is increasingly difficult to optimize equitable distribution of CBS inventory which creates the potential for isolated order cuts.   |
|                                    | It is strongly recommended that Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committees (PEBMCs) convene. This is necessary to communicate with hospitals to assess and guide inventory management and optimize best practices for patient blood management at the provincial and regional levels. As per the National Plan for Management of Shortages of Labile Blood Components (nacblood.ca/en/blood-shortage), PEBMCs should be prepared to provide guidance to the NEBMC on where order reductions may be more appropriate should they be unavoidable. PEBMCs are also to continue messaging, engaging health jurisdiction/hospital leadership across their jurisdictions. |
| Impact on hospitals                | Action Required:  All blood system stakeholders should continue to actively monitor inventories and work within their respective PEBMCs to decrease inventories where appropriate to mitigate the risk of further order cuts (where needed across the country).   |
|                                    | PEBMCs should be prepared to provide guidance to the NEBMC to identify hospitals where order delays or reductions may be better tolerated than others.  |
|                                    | Hospitals should continue to provide inventory levels for group O red blood cells by 12:00 noon EST each day. In the absence of reporting during these inventory challenges, cuts to inventory requests may be made inequitably. Hospital inventory is to   |

be reported via the following link: <a href="https://myhospital.blood.ca/">https://myhospital.blood.ca/</a>, or in accordance with usual provincial practices (British Columbia and Manitoba).

 Hospitals should confirm their ability to accommodate Héma-Québec components as well as make any process or system updates required to accommodate Héma-Québec components, should they be provided.

Shipment Index information is being provided by Canadian Blood Services to representatives of each PEBMC. The NEBMC recommends the Shipment Index for group O red blood cells be reduced to levels noted below, which has already begun in jurisdictions across Canada. These recommended targets apply to provinces only (excludes territories) and will be used by PEBMCs to determine how hospital inventory will be allocated within their jurisdictions, to avoid indiscriminate cuts to inventory.

## **Provincial Target Shipment Index During Green Phase Advisory**

O-negative: 15O-positive: 10

If a hospital is not aware of how provincial targets will impact their hospital inventories or what steps to take, they are asked to connect with their PEBMC, their Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee or their Hospital Liaison Specialist. These targets are not expected to impact the provision of blood for clinical care, but should such instances occur they are to be reported to the PEBMC to bring to the NEBMC's attention.

It is recognized that not all hospitals within a province will be able to reduce inventories due to local circumstances such as size, proximity, programs, and previous action taken to reduce inventory but confirmation with the PEBMC of these plans is recommended.

## For more information

For additional info, contact:

- 1. Your representative to the Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committee
- 2. Your representative to your Hospital Emergency Blood Management Committee
- 3. Your Hospital Liaison Specialist, Canadian Blood Services

\*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: http://www.nacblood.ca/resources/shortages-plan/index.html

If you require this advisory in an accessible format, please contact your local Canadian Blood Services Hospital Liaison Specialist.