



To: ALL HOSPITAL SITES
From: National Emergency Blood Management Committee*
Subject: GREEN PHASE (Normal Inventory)

National Inventory Update

Date and time of issue	2023-05-05 0600 (EST)
Inventory Availability Phase	GREEN PHASE (Normal Inventory)
Product(s)	Red blood cells
Description	<p>Inventory levels for all blood groups of red blood cells (RBC) are within Green Phase levels.</p> <p>However, Canadian Blood Services continues to experience lower than optimal inventory conditions and lowered response to immediate need messaging. Resulting impacts are most prominent for inventories of group O negative and B negative RBCs.</p> <p>Additional measures including leveraging the national inventory are being deployed and hospitals <u>may</u> experience occasional local order reductions that are expected to be addressed expeditiously.</p> <p>The NEBMC has been convened and is monitoring the situation closely. This notice is for continued heightened hospital awareness only at this time.</p>
Impact on hospitals	<p><u>Action Required:</u></p> <p>It is recommended that hospitals maintain regular inventory levels and follow best practice and appropriate use of fresh blood components. Information regarding blood donation opportunities locally can be found on www.blood.ca.</p> <p>Should demand for fresh blood components change (increase of high demand patients) or if your hospital is experiencing inventory challenges, please contact your Hospital Liaison Specialist, Canadian Blood Services. Hospitals and provinces should also take the opportunity to familiarize themselves with provincial blood shortages plans and activities should they need to escalate a local situation to the NEBMC through their provincial representatives.</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 Group O RH(D)-negative red cells.</p> <p>B negative RBC: Hospitals are asked to reassess B negative RBC inventory locally and are encouraged to make relevant clinical teams aware of this notice for transfusion planning (such as in sickle cell disease patients with high volume exchanges).</p>

	<p>All RBCs:</p> <p>Additionally, the NEBMC recommends the following best practices for all red blood cell groups: Choosing Wisely Canada recommendations related to red blood cell transfusions</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.