

Date: March 1st, 2018

To: Members of the Zone Emergency Blood Management Committees,
Hospital Clinical & Administrative Leads, and Blood bank staff across the province

From: Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committee

**RE: UPDATE: GREEN ADVISORY ACTIVATION FOR GROUP O Rh Negative Red
Blood Cells**

National inventory levels of group O Rh Negative red cells continue to be suboptimal with some increasing concern regarding the sufficiency of group O Rh positive red cells. As a result the green phase advisory initially put in place on January 12th cannot be lifted at this time. Hospitals in Alberta will continue to closely evaluate their red cell inventory levels, reduce O Rh negative inventory to minimal levels if possible and are required to report inventory levels to CBS on a daily basis to allow national and provincial comparisons.

The impact for **clinical services** is that the Transfusion services will be closely monitoring patients who are O Rh negative requiring transfusion support. Health Care practitioners may be contacted for the following reasons:

- a) Assessment of the quantity and/or appropriateness of Group O Rh negative red cells required to determine if the request can be met.
- b) If the number of O Rh negative red cells requested/ required are such that it would compromise care of other patients. This discussion may result in a switch of O Rh negative patients to group O Rh positive as those stocks permit.

All Health Care Practitioners are asked to alert their transfusion service as soon as they have identified any group O Rh negative patients who may be requiring significant amounts of red cell support to ensure that appropriate plans are in place. In addition, please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate if they are group O.

The full details of the Alberta Blood Contingency Plan can be found at:
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-blood-contingency-plan-contingency-plan-for-the-management-of-labile-blood-product-shortages>

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

- 1) Transfusion Medicine Physician on Call for your zone
- 2) Your Zone's Transfusion Medicine representative to the Provincial TM Network and / or Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committee
- 3) The Alberta Hospital Customer Liaison representative from CBS
- 4) Your site's blood bank supervisory staff.

For electronic copy of this memorandum: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page13609.aspx>

Alberta Health Services- Provincial Emergency Blood Management Committee