

Date: January 12th, 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: GREEN ADVISORY ACTIVATION FOR GROUP O Rh Negative Red Blood Cells

The National Emergency Blood Management Committee (NEBMC), in response to low levels of group O Rh negative red blood cells across the country at Canadian Blood Services (CBS), has declared a **GREEN ADVISORY** contingency activation for the management of Blood and Blood Product Shortages. **This advisory is for Group O Rh Negative red blood cells.**

A GREEN ADVISORY is a shortage in which the blood supplier cannot meet the OPTIMAL inventory requirements of hospitals across the country. Hospitals with significant inventory levels in Alberta will be reducing O Rh negative inventory by at least 10%, and will be closely monitoring inventory levels and requests for red cells to help balance the national inventory. It is hoped that these activities and CBS's work to recruit donors will stabilize the inventory levels by the end of January.

At this time, the hospitals will have a smaller buffer of group O red cells but will NOT be requesting changes to clinical practices. For clinical areas that may have high users of group O red cells, please relay anticipated need to your local blood bank as soon as possible as it may necessitate changes in clinical practice and inventory for other clinical areas and/or facilities.

For facilities that stock only emergency red cells, or very limited numbers of red cells, we will not be requesting return of units at this time or stock reductions, but may be required to do so if the shortage worsens.

All hospitals are requested to report their inventories to Canadian Blood Services by 10:00am MST.

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.