



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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To: Medical Directors Health Boards & Trusts
Dean of the Medical Deanery
Dean of the School of Nursing
Dean of the School of Midwifery

January 2020

Dear Colleague

Management & Use of O D Neg Red Cells

ISSUE

The Blood Health National Oversight Group (BHNOG) has submitted a new policy on the management and use of O D Neg Red Cells. I am writing to notify you of this and the requirements set out in the attached guidance.

BACKGROUND

Although issues of red cells has reduced in Wales by 6.6% in the last 3 years the demand for group O D Negative (O D Neg) red cells as a percentage of total, red cells issues continues to rise.

This guidance has been developed by the Better Health National Oversight group (BHNOG) to provide hospitals in Wales and the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) with information and assistance to help them proactively manage supplies of O D Neg red cells within a clear and consistent framework.

The management of these units should be seen as a collaborative venture with both the hospitals and WBS undertaking specific responsibilities to optimise supply. By applying and working to these principles it will ensure that there is sufficient supply of O D Neg within the blood supply chain and help prevent significant shortages from occurring.

The Guidance has been developed in collaboration with Transfusion Laboratory Managers (TLMs) across Wales and considers all factors in the effective management of blood stocks within the hospital transfusion laboratory, clinical area and blood establishment setting.

The Guidance is consistent with *BCSH Guidelines for Pre-Transfusion compatibility procedures (2013)*¹ and a *practical guideline for haematological management of major haemorrhage (2015)*².



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A repeated survey of the fate of O D Neg highlighted three specific areas of practice that could be influenced to optimise management of O D Negs:

- Wastage due to time expiry (TIMEX)
- Transfusion to non-O D Neg patients to avoid TIMEX
- Emergency use of O D Neg

The attached guidance focuses on these three areas.

ACTION

I invite you to read the guidance and assess its appropriate use within your organisations

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Atherton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

DR FRANK ATHERTON