

April 2020

Blood donation is an essential service – if donors are healthy and well they can and should continue to donate blood.

You can make a difference to help maintain inventories as now, more than ever, it is essential that blood and blood products are ordered and transfused appropriately.

There are no inventory shortages in Australia at this time for blood and blood products supplied by the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood or our commercial suppliers for plasma and recombinant products.

Blood will still be needed for a number of situations, such as trauma, postpartum haemorrhage, haematology oncology patients and urgent surgery.

Some blood conservation strategies that are important during this time will include activities you are already undertaking - they may just need an increased focus.

Remember that there are numerous resources that can assist in making appropriate decisions.

1. Good Patient Blood Management and appropriate prescribing and clinical use practices will help maintain blood and blood product inventories.

Before the decision to transfuse is made, all of the risks, benefits and the full range of available therapies should be considered. There may be another more appropriate treatment or product that can be used.

- PBM Guidelines <https://www.blood.gov.au/pbm-guidelines>
- Immunoglobulin Governance <https://www.blood.gov.au/national-policy-to-ig>
- ANZSBT Guidelines <https://anzsbt.org.au/guidelines-standards/anzsbt-guidelines/>
- Lifeblood website <https://transfusion.com.au/>



2. Good inventory management practices will avoid wastage and ensure product is available for appropriate use.

It is vital for health providers holding blood and blood products to ensure appropriate utilisation of a precious resource. Appropriate ordering of all blood products and dispensing of Immunoglobulin products are essential to ensure product is available to all patients who need it. It is not appropriate to increase stock levels, as this could put strain on supply.

- NBA website <https://www.blood.gov.au/inventory-management>
- ANZSBT <https://anzsbt.org.au/guidelines-standards/anzsbt-guidelines/>
- NPAAC <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/npaac-pub-transfusion>



3. Good contingency planning and management will minimise wastage and ensure products are available to meet clinical demand in times of shortage.

The NBA has contingency and risk mitigation measures in place to ensure the continuing supply of blood and blood-related products and services, including through the National Blood Supply Contingency Plan. The NBSCP is designed to complement your organisation's local contingency plans for times of blood and blood product shortage.

- NBA website <https://www.blood.gov.au/nbscp>

