



**American
Red Cross**

Empower GROUP O CARE

Stewardship Tip: **Switch Sooner**

Quick Fact

2

Only 6.9% of the population
is O negative!

TIP

Implement policies to switch
patients to O positive.

Contact your Red Cross Medical
Director to Learn More.

Does your blood bank have a policy describing when to switch patients to Rh positive RBCs to avoid depleting group O negative inventory?

- During an emergency, a single patient can rapidly deplete O negative RBC inventory. This can potentially jeopardize O negative availability for other O negative patients, as well as O negative patients at other hospitals.
- Help protect the O negative blood supply by implementing policies describing when to switch patients to Rh(D)-positive and ensuring blood bank teams are familiar with them!
- Having clear policies in place before an emergency happens can help to prevent a **critically low O negative inventory**.

Does your blood bank have policies to expedite sample collection to quickly switch patients to type-specific blood upon completion of pretransfusion testing?

AABB Recommendations for Appropriate Group O Use*:

According to the AABB: Hospital transfusion services should closely monitor utilization of Rh(D)-negative inventory. Policies should be developed that describe when patients should be switched to Rh(D)-positive RBCs to avoid depletion of the group O Rh(D)-negative supply.

*AABB Recommendations for Appropriate Group O Use: <https://www.aabb.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/resources/association-bulletins/ab19-02.pdf>