



American
Red Cross

Empower GROUP O CARE

Stewardship Tip: **Know Where Your O's Go**

Quick Fact

3

The OPTIMUS study estimated
44.5% of group O negative RBC
transfusions could have
used O positive!*

TIP

Audit O negative Unit Utilization.

Does your blood bank perform periodic audits of O negative use?

- Audits are a great way to better understand utilization patterns and identify potential ways to improve O negative stewardship!
- Evaluate all O negative units transfused to non-O negative patients during a given time period. How many units were transfused to non-O negative recipients? Were there any situations where another type could have been used?
- Low O negative expiration rates alone may not tell the whole story: evaluating short-dated O negative units that are routinely transfused to non-O negative patients to avoid expiration is an important opportunity to reduce your O negative utilization rate! See this study from Stanford for more details: Optimizing O negative RBC utilization using a data-driven approach.*
- Transferring short-dated units to hospital partners may contribute to overuse at the transfer hospital and **should not be considered a substitute for right-sizing the O negative orders**. Discuss O negative utilization with transfer partner.

Contact your Red Cross Medical
Director to Learn More.

*Dunbar NM, Yazer MH, for the BEST Collaborative. O- product transfusion, inventory management, and utilization during shortage: The OPTIMUS study. Transfusion 2018;58: 1348-55. Optimizing O-negative RBC utilization using a data-driven approach. Transfusion. 60:4. Apr 2020: 739-746.