



**American  
Red Cross**

## *Empower* GROUP O CARE

Stewardship Tip: **Right Type Focus**

### Quick Fact

**5**

**More than 90% of all sickle cell patients are estimated to be Rh positive!**

#### **TIP**

**Provide ABO/Rh type-specific antigen-negative units whenever possible.**

#### **Does your hospital have a routine practice to order type-specific antigen-negative units in advance of a transfusion?**

- Transfusing type-specific antigen-negative units to patients with sickle cell disease helps to reduce the reliance on O negative blood.
- Scheduling transfusion for patients with sickle cell disease and ordering type-specific antigen-negative units in advance of the procedure:
  - Increases the likelihood of a type-specific match that meets the antigen-negative requirements.
  - Reduces the frequency of product substitutions, transfusion delays or fewer units than desired being transfused.
- If testing units in house for CEK, screen A and B negative for non-O sickle cell patients.
- Since launching its Sickle Cell Initiative in January 2021, the Red Cross has grown the Black or African American donor base and provided more than 260,000 sickle cell trait screenings\* to donors who self-identified as Black or African American.

**Contact your Red Cross Medical Director to Learn More**

\*<https://www.aabb.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/resources/association-bulletins/ab19-02.pdf>

\*Sickle Cell trait screening data as of January 28, 2025.