

Blood Stocks Press Release

**12th October
2022**

Dear thalassaemia/ red cell community,

We know how frightening the recent news from NHS Blood and Transplant regarding blood shortages will be for you and your family. However, we would like to reassure you that **your regular blood transfusions will not be stopped in any way.**

Red cell dependent conditions like **transfusion dependent thalassaemia**, sickle cell anaemia, diamond blackfan's anaemia amongst others **are categorised as “priority”** and as such individuals living with these conditions that require life-saving blood products **will continue to receive them as prescribed.**

It is important to note that what may change if blood stocks continue to deplete; is the date of the red cells you may receive. In most cases, individuals living with red cell conditions are prioritised to receive cells donated within 10 days, however, if stocks are low or must be outsourced from other regions of the country, you could receive cells that are older. This is entirely safe and does not affect quality of blood itself.

NHS Blood and Transplant have assured us that they are doing everything in their power to resolve the challenges with blood stocks as soon as possible.

How can you help?

Please do ensure you attend your blood transfusion appointments. Also please be aware that fresh blood may not always be available especially if you have several antibodies and as such hospitals may need to give you older units to treat you safely.

If you have any concerns, please talk to your red cell team or contact UKTS for thalassaemia related questions.

We will get through this together.

With best wishes,

TEAM UKTS