

Michigan Medicine Blood Allocation and Supply
Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a blood allocation and how does that impact Michigan Medicine?
 - In January 2022, the American Red Cross declared the first-ever national blood supply crisis. Since there is now a shortage of blood, health care organizations have been placed on a special “allocation”, which can affect our ability to care for patients including those needing transplants, major surgeries, trauma care and cancer therapy. Michigan Medicine is currently tracking the organizations blood supply and encouraging eligible employees to donate blood. At this time, the organization is not in a critical crisis and patient care is not impacted. However, to ensure available blood supply when needed, preventative conservation measures will be applied.

- How will this impact my role?
 - Providers should follow institutional guidelines when ordering blood components. Consideration should be given to early intervention to treat or prevent bleeding, addition to alternatives to transfusion in anemic patients. Providers should contact the Blood Bank resident or attending on-call in the event of potential high blood use or special transfusion requirements.

- How will this impact my department / patients?
 - Departments providing care that rely on a stable blood supply will be updated on supply levels by the Blood Allocation Committee.
 - At present, being judicious about blood utilization, adhering to institutional guidelines on blood product use and limiting blood product wastage will help maintain adequate inventory.
 - You may be contacted by Blood Bank if an order for Blood Products requires approval by the Blood Bank.

- With the shortage, what should I do if a patient needs blood?
 - At the present time there is no change to procedures for blood ordering. Depending on current inventory some orders may be prioritized, in which case ordering providers will be contacted.
 - We have experienced intermittent episodes in the past where certain blood products might be in short supply. The Blood Bank has managed this extremely well in past and will work with providers to manage limited supplies.
 - Should shortages become more widespread or be determined to be critical, additional communication will follow.

Blood Allocation and Supply Communications - FAQs

- Will there be a process in place to track blood levels to determine priority?
 - The Blood Bank has processes to manage and report existing inventory. Additional analytics to display the current and projected blood inventory status is being developed.
 - Blood inventory status is continually reviewed and if needed, status is escalated for further action.
 - Should existing inventory not be adequate for blood required, a prioritization process will be used, following principles of Safety, Equity and Stewardship to be sure that reasonable, inclusive and transparent decisions are made.

- What are ways employees can help?
 - Employees are encouraged to donate blood at local blood drives and/or encourage friends and family to donate. Over the next few weeks, the American Red Cross is hosting several blood drives on the Michigan Medicine campus:
 - Feb. 11: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Rachel Upjohn, Atrium & Conference Room
 - Feb. 14: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Rackham graduate School, Assembly Hall
 - Feb. 15: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Towsley Lobby
 - Feb. 16: 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Towsley Lobby
 - Feb. 17 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., AA Red Cross Donor Center, Donor Room
 - Feb. 22: 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., Towsley Lobby
 - Feb. 23: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Arbor Lakes, Dome
 - Mar. 16: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Towsley Lobby
 - Mar.17: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Towsley Lobby
 - Mar. 22: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., NCRC Dining Room
 - Apr. 6: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. KMS 700

- If you have any questions, please reach out to your immediate supervisor, or contact the [Blood Bank](#).