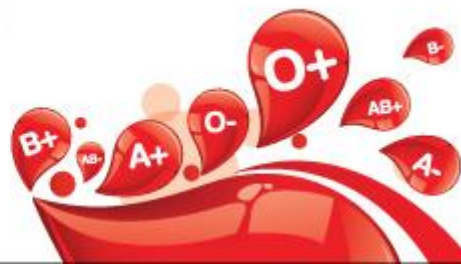


# BloodBrief

## -An Update on ONeg-



June 2015

Dear Hospital Colleague:

Nationally, the overall demand for red blood cells (RBCs) for transfusion has been declining since 2009. After years of progressive increase, O-negative demand has started to decline as well. From April 2014 – March 2015 a total of 91,695 O-negative RBCs were issued to hospitals served by Canadian Blood Services. This is a decrease of 5,698 units compared to two years ago (fiscal April 2012 – March 2013).

Although this shift in demand is encouraging, the percentage of O-negative issues remains relatively the same (Figure 1). It is important to note that some hospitals are decreasing the overall amount of RBC units received per year. Therefore, despite O-negative efficiencies, the percentage of O-negative RBC of all blood group units received may not reflect this general improvement in transfusion practice.

Canadian Blood Services continues to improve phenotype testing practices to ensure sufficient group specific phenotyped units are available when requested by hospitals. This will help to reduce reliance on O-negative phenotyped units and improve the overall availability of O-negative units. Sustained collective effort of all blood system stakeholders is integral to address the imbalance that still exists between our O-negative donor population (10% - sourced from 6-7% of the general population) and national hospital demand (11.9%). Canadian Blood Services supports and facilitates dialogue, data sharing and promotion of best practices to minimize different patterns of practice within hospital peer groups. In September 2014 we issued a [customer letter outlining challenges and highlighting best practices pertaining to O-negative RBCs](#).

**In a continued effort to promote optimal utilization of O-negative RBCs, this is the third year that hospital transfusion committees are being engaged via BloodBrief.** This year, the BloodBrief provides three years of O-negative RBC issue data specific to hospitals, ranking within the O-neg issues list, and anonymized issue data for other hospitals across the country as a reference. New this year is the inclusion of hospital specific O-neg RBC disposition data. Please refer to the footnotes with the BloodBrief data tables when reviewing the data.

**The goal is to continue to heighten hospital awareness of issue trends over time and compared to other hospitals.** Results from the BloodBrief effectiveness survey conducted in January 2014 revealed that for 68% of survey respondents the BloodBrief highlighted data/information that was new and it also prompts hospitals to review transfusion practice and blood component demand. Hospitals will be surveyed again in 2015-2016 to further confirm the effectiveness of the BloodBrief initiative.



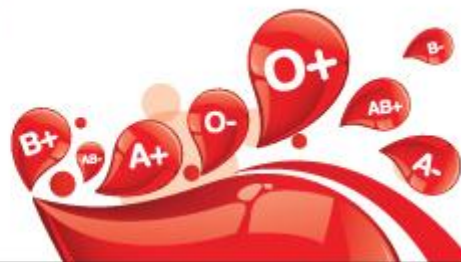
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# BloodBrief

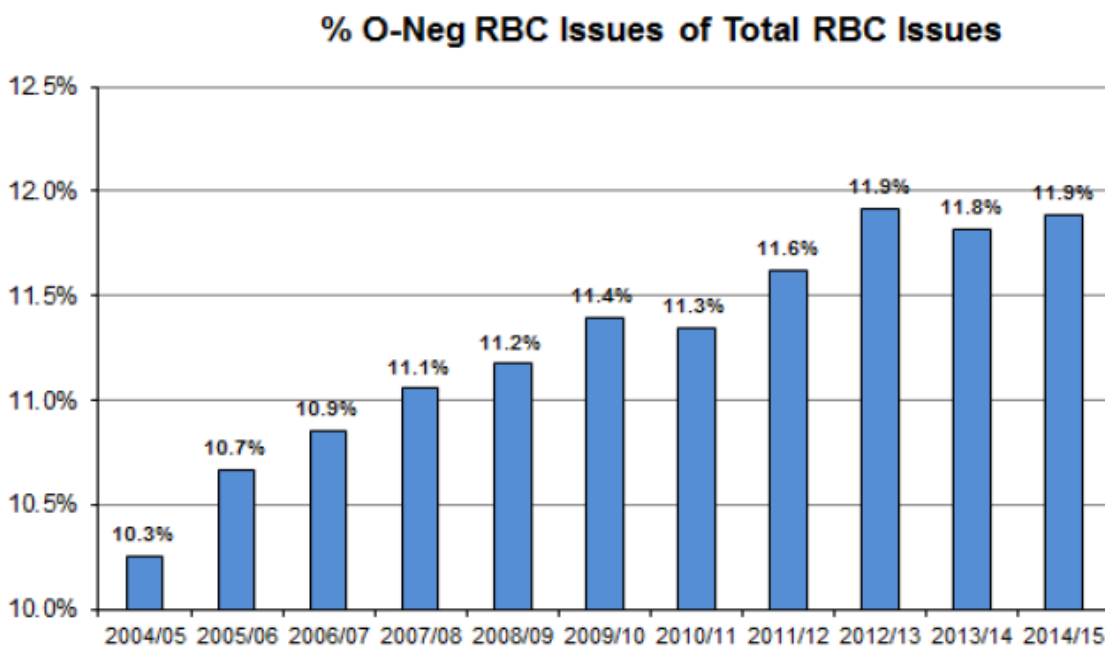
## -An Update on ONeg-



Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or comments you may have regarding the content of this BloodBrief. Alternately, your local Canadian Blood Services Medical Officer or Hospital Liaison Specialist is available as well.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Webert, MD, MSc, FRCPC  
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**Figure 1:** O-neg as a percentage of all red blood cells issued by Canadian Blood Services to hospitals in all provinces (except Quebec) since 2004.



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