



29 July 2020

## Appeal for Blood Donation and Patient Blood Management amid COVID-19

Dear Fellows,

The epidemic situation of COVID-19 in Hong Kong has continued to deteriorate over the past few weeks. As learnt from the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service yesterday, the blood inventories have been depleted to very low levels, with only three to four days' stock.

We all understand the importance of sufficient blood supply in patient management. This is particularly so during the current health crisis when our resources are channeled primarily towards the management of COVID-19 and emergency and critically ill patients. Those who need blood need it urgently!

The Academy would like to appeal all of you to join members of the public to donate blood. Under the present pandemic, Hong Kong needs 500 units of blood each day! Details of the blood donation operation can be found here (<https://www5.ha.org.hk/rcbts/loc-all>).

Besides, may I also refer you to the Patient Blood Management (PBM) practice guidelines prepared by the various professional societies and National Authorities (<https://www.ifpbm.org/>, <https://www.blood.gov.au/pbm-guidelines>) to optimise red cell mass and minimise blood loss and the effects of anaemia for patients, e.g. by prescribing medications to help speed up blood production before blood transfusion; good surgical practice to minimise blood loss; staged transfusion using one unit of blood first before deciding on further treatment according to the patient's clinical condition etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your dedication and professionalism in combating the COVID-19. Please remain vigilant and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,  
Professor CS Lau  
President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine