



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SINGAPORE RED CROSS AND HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
CALL FOR CONTINUED BLOOD DONATIONS**

Singapore, 22 March 2012 – The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) are calling on all blood donors, especially O blood donors, to come forward to donate this weekend.

As of today, the national blood stock level is about 1,200 units, enough for the next three to four days. However, to ensure our ability to continue to meet the daily transfusion needs and bleeding emergencies, we aim to bring the current bloodstock level to at least six days' supply of 1,800 units. (This means that we will need the support of about 1,000 donors over this weekend.)

There has been a consistent dip in blood stocks level over the past week. This is due to an increase in hospital utilisation caused by several bleeding emergencies since the beginning of the year, and reduced support for community bloodmobiles. The national stockpile has to be ramped up in order to meet the daily transfusion needs of patients as well as for bleeding emergencies.

The daily national blood stock is monitored closely by SRC and HSA. Given the current dip in the various blood types, HSA is closely monitoring the blood usage by the hospitals, and SRC is working with bloodmobile organisers to mobilise their staff/members/ volunteers to come forward. SRC, as the national blood donor recruiter, has been issuing phone texts to recall blood donors, especially those who are due for their next blood donation, since 7 February 2012. However, response has been slow. This blood appeal is an additional measure to call on potential blood donors to come forward to bring up the stockpile. As blood can only be kept for a limited period of time, we seek the support of blood donors to help ensure a constant supply of blood to patients. In Singapore, more than 350 units are needed daily to meet the transfusion needs of patients in hospitals.

Blood Donors Urged to Come Forward

All healthy individuals between 18 and 60 years, weighing at least 45kg, are urged to come forward to help. Donors who have not made a donation in the past 12 weeks are encouraged to give blood as well.

Blood donations can be made at:

- Bloodbank@HSA, located at 11 Outram Road [opposite Outram Park MRT Station]. The opening hours are as follows:

Tuesdays to Thursdays: 9am to 6.30pm

Fridays: 9am to 8pm

Saturdays: 9am to 4.30pm

Sundays: 9am to 2pm

Closed on Mondays and public holidays

Bloodbank@Woodlands offers later closing hours on weekdays from 12pm to 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

- Bloodbank@Woodlands, located at 900 South Woodlands Drive, Woodlands Civic Centre, #05-07. The opening hours are as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 12pm to 8pm

Saturdays 9am to 5pm

Sundays 9am to 2pm

Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

The public can also donate blood at our community bloodmobiles. Details of the community mobiles are available online at www.donorweb.org. Those who wish to donate can call the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) at 62200183 for more details.

Donors need to bring their NRIC [for Singaporeans], or passport [for non-Singaporeans].

Those who have not donated blood before in Singapore can visit www.hsa.gov.sg/donationcriteria or call SRC at 62200183 for more information on the blood donation criteria or to make an appointment for blood donation.

About Singapore Red Cross Blood Donor Recruitment Programme

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) was appointed as the National Blood Donor Recruiter in April 2001. Together with our partner-in-service, the Blood Services Group of the Health Sciences Authority, we aim to collect sufficient safe blood for the transfusion needs of all our hospitals.

The SRC focuses on 3 main functions in the National Blood Programme:

- Recruitment, Retention and Recognition of blood donors
- Promotion and Education to increase public awareness on the importance of blood donation
- Organisation of mobile blood donation drives in the community

About HSA's Blood Services Group

The Blood Services Group (BSG) of HSA, as the national blood service, secures the nation's blood supply by ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply. It operates the Bloodbank@HSA and Bloodbank@Woodlands. It is responsible for collecting, processing, testing and distributing blood and blood products to all hospitals in Singapore. It also provides specialist transfusion medicine services in immunohaematology and tissue typing and is actively engaged in the cutting-edge therapeutic research area of cell processing.