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<th><strong>RETURNING BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS INTO INVENTORY</strong></th>
<th><strong>NLBCP-026</strong></th>
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<tr>
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Overview

Requirements for returning blood components and blood products into inventory after leaving the controlled temperature environment need to be followed in order to maintain the integrity of the component or product and ensure it may be safely issued for future transfusion. Failure to adhere to the storage and expiration requirements may result in decreased potency and/or safety.

Policy

1. All Regional Health Authorities shall develop and implement policies, processes and procedures that comply with Provincial Blood Coordinating Program policy on the returning of blood components and blood products into inventory.

2. Blood components and blood products shall be returned immediately to the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory if the decision is made to not transfuse.

3. A process shall be in place to ensure that the blood component or blood product has not been outside of the controlled environment for a longer time than specified by the laboratory.

   3.1. Blood components that have been out of a temperature controlled environment longer than 60 minutes shall not be returned to inventory or re-issued and shall be discarded by the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory according to established facility procedure.

   3.2. Blood products shall be maintained within the parameters described in the product monograph. There shall be documentation to confirm.

4. All closures of blood component or blood product shall be intact when returned to inventory.

5. The visual inspection of a blood component or blood product shall be acceptable and documented to return to inventory. Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Blood Products

6. Blood components may be outside a temperature controlled environment for no longer than 60 minutes to prevent replication of contaminating bacteria.

Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Blood Products
Guidelines

1. The blood components and blood products acceptable temperature ranges are:
   1.1. Red blood cells – 1–10°C;
   1.2. Platelets – 20–24°C;
   1.3. Thawed Plasma – 1–10°C;
   1.4. Thawed Cryoprecipitate – 20–24°C;
   1.5. Blood products – according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

2. Temperature requirements during transport of blood components may differ from those during storage.
   2.1. Red blood cells are stored at 1–6°C, but may be transported at 1–10°C for up to 24 hours.

Procedure

1. Document the date and time that the blood component or blood product is returned to the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory.
   1.1. Ensure time out of temperature controlled storage has not exceeded 60 minutes for blood components.

2. Perform visual inspection of blood component or product and document.

3. Ensure temperature has met quality requirements as defined by laboratory.

4. Blood components and/or products that meet the criteria can be returned to inventory.

5. Blood components and/or products that do not meet criteria must be discarded according to facility procedure.
   5.1. Document the final status and the reason for final disposition/discard of the blood component or product according to facility procedure.
   5.2. Complete facility occurrence report if necessary.
Quality Control

1. Mechanisms to ensure component temperature is within acceptable range on return to laboratory may include:

   1.1. The use of temperature indicator stickers on all red cell units;

   1.2. A complete physical check of temperature on returned units using calibrated equipment;

   1.3. The implementation of strict guidelines for the control of blood components or blood products outside the laboratory coupled with periodic audits of compliance; or

   1.4. The use of validate transport containers that are capable of maintaining the appropriate temperature, coupled with periodic audits.

Key Words

Inventory, return, temperature
Supplemental Materials

Document date and time component was returned to lab

Was the component outside temperature controlled environment longer than 60 minutes?

Yes

Visual inspection acceptable?

No

Discard component

Document final disposition. Fill out occurrence report if necessary.

No

Does component meet return criteria?

Yes

Return to inventory.

No

Yes

No
References


