Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

BLOOD COMPONENTS AND PLASMA PROTEIN AND RELATED PRODUCTS ACCOMPANYING MEDICAL TRANSPORT	NLBCP-067

Office of Administrative Responsibility	Issuing Authority
Medical Advisor to the Provincial Blood Coordinating Program	Dr. Christopher Sharpe
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program	Daphne Osborne
Author(s)	Denise Callahan Ryan
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Overview

If blood components and/or plasma protein and related products (PPRP) are required to accompany a patient during medical transport, measures shall be in place to maintain the viability and traceability of the component or PPRP to prevent wastage.

The Transfusion Medicine Laboratory (TML) shall be notified that blood components and/or PPRP are required during patient transport to ensure that the blood components and/or PPRP are packaged according to established policies and procedures.

NL Health Services (NLHS) facilities shall have policies, processes and procedures for the transport of blood components and PPRP with a patient.

Policy

1. The TML responsible for packaging the blood components and/or PPRP to accompany the medical transport team shall inform the TML at the destination of the transport in accordance with the Notification and Follow-up When Sending Samples, Blood Components and Plasma Protein and Related Products policy.
2. The transport container shall not be opened until the blood component or PPRP is required for transfusion. Then, only what is needed for transfusion shall be removed. **Note**: If a temperature monitoring device (e.g., log tag) is used in the transport container it shall not be disturbed/removed at any time.
3. The transport container shall be immediately closed after removal of the blood component or PPRP.
4. The transfusion cards shall be completed by the personnel performing the transfusion.
5. If a transfusion is still in progress after transport all applicable areas on the transfusion card shall be completed (e.g., start time and date, patient identification check) by the initiator and then handed off with the patient with instructions to complete the card upon completion of transfusion. If the issue/transfusion card has two copies, one copy shall remain on the recipient's medical record and the other copy returned to the TML at the destination of the transport container. If there is only one copy, it is sent to the TML with the container.
6. The transport container, contents and any completed transfusion cards shall be sent to the TML immediately upon arrival at the receiving facility, provided the blood components or PPRP are not required for the patient in the emergency room or other patient care area.

7. Contents of the transport container shall be entered into inventory, if acceptable, once received in the TML. See Returning Blood Components and Blood Products into Inventory.
8. The transport container (with temperature monitoring device if applicable) shall be returned to originating TML with routine courier service.
9. Blood component or PPRP final disposition information (e.g., transfusion cards) shall be returned or faxed to the originating TML.

Quality Control

1. A constant temperature-monitoring device. The documented temperature during transport ensures the temperature specifications were maintained.
2. Blood Components and PPRP returned to the TML shall not be placed into usable inventory if proof of storage temperature cannot be confirmed. Units shall be destroyed, and a report filed as per facility policy and provincial/federal regulations.

Key Words

Transport, blood components, PPRP

References

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