



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

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| TRANSPORT OF BLOOD COMPONENTS AND PLASMA PROTEIN AND RELATED PRODUCTS WITHIN A FACILITY | NLBPCP-035 |
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Overview

When blood components or plasma protein and related products (PPRP) are retrieved from the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory (TML) for transfusion, they must be handled in an acceptable manner to maintain the integrity of the component or PPRP. There shall be guidelines that specify who may sign out and transport blood components and PPRP, conditions and time frames of transit, and appropriate processing and storage procedures.

Policy

1. Facility policy shall define who may sign out and transport blood components and PPRP within a facility.
2. Blood components and PPRP shall only be stored in areas where temperatures are monitored specifically for blood components and PPRP.
3. Once blood components or PPRP are retrieved from the TML they shall be transported directly to the destination where the transfusion is to take place. There shall be no other stops from TML.
4. Red blood cells (RBCs) must be started soon after they are received and completed within four (4) hours of removal from proper storage. If there is a delay in transfusion the RBCs shall be returned to the TML.
5. Retrieval of blood components or PPRP from the TML requires facility documentation identifying the patient, the transporter, the blood component or PPRP and the date and time of retrieval.
6. All blood components and PPRP shall have a compatibility label/tag attached when removed from TML.
7. The transporter shall notify staff at the patient care area that the requested blood component or PPRP has been delivered.

Guidelines

1. Blood components and PPRP should not be retrieved until:
 - 1.1. the recipient is at the location where the transfusion will be administered;
 - 1.2. the recipient has been properly prepared; and
 - 1.3. the transfusionist is ready to initiate the transfusion.

2. Blood components other than platelets may remain outside of controlled storage for no longer than 60 minutes before they are unacceptable to be returned to inventory (refer to facility policy for PPRP).
3. If a transfusion is delayed or canceled, immediately return blood component or PPRP to the TML.

Quality Control

Training for the handling and transportation of blood components and PPRP must be documented and there shall be regular assessments to ensure compliance with established procedures.

Key Words

Transportation, blood components, retrieval, PPRP, facility, product

References

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