



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

VISUAL INSPECTION OF BLOOD COMPONENTS	NLBSP-030
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Effective Date	2024-07-17
Version	3.0
Review Due Date	2027-07-17

Overview

The visual inspection of blood components is an important assessment to confirm the integrity of the component. There are many factors that influence the quality and appearance of a blood component, including temperature, donor characteristics, and contaminants. All personnel in the hospital setting who handle blood components for transfusion require the ability to recognize discrepancies in the typical appearance of blood components.

Policy

1. Blood components shall be visually inspected before being placed into inventory.
2. The visual inspection shall ensure that each blood component is properly labelled and that there are no signs of leakage, discoloration, or abnormalities including clots or hemolysis.
3. The visual inspection of blood components shall be documented.
4. A visual inspection of a blood component shall occur:
 - 4.1. Upon receipt;
 - 4.2. Prior to transport;
 - 4.3. Prior to issue; and,
 - 4.4. Prior to returning to inventory.
5. Blood components shall not be used after the expiry date, unless, in special circumstances where the Transfusion Medicine Medical Director, or equivalent, has provided documented approval.
6. Solvent Detergent Plasma shall follow the same visual inspection guidelines as plasma.
7. Blood components that do not pass the visual inspection shall not be placed into inventory.

Guidelines

1. The Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Visual Inspection Tool should be used as guidance when performing a visual inspection.
2. The CBS Visual Inspection Tool can be found [here](#).

Key Words

Blood component, visual inspection

References

Canadian Blood Services. (2023). *Visual Inspection Tool*. Ottawa: Canadian Blood Services.

Retrieved from: <https://profedu.blood.ca/en/visual-inspection-tool>

Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine. (2021). *CSTM standards for hospital transfusion services*. Version 5. Markham, ON: Author.

Canadian Standards Association. (2020). *Blood and blood components, Z902-20*. Mississauga, ON: Author.