Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS ACCOMPANYING MEDICAL TRANSPORT	NLBCP-067

Office of Administrative Responsibility	Issuing Authority
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Overview

In the event that blood components or blood products are required to accompany patient transport, precautions must be in place to maintain the viability of the component or product and prevent wastage.

Policy

1. The site responsible for packaging the blood components or blood products to accompany the medical transport team shall inform the lab at the destination of the medical transport in accordance with the Notification and Follow-up When Sending Samples, Blood Products and Blood Components policy.
2. The transport container shall not be opened until the blood component or blood product is required for transfusion. Then, only what is needed for transfusion shall be removed.
3. If blood components or blood products are required for transfusion during transport, the transport container shall be re-closed securely, immediately after what is needed is removed.
4. The transfusion cards shall be completed as each unit is transfused.
5. If the transfusion is not completed during transport, all applicable areas shall be filled out (eg. start time and date, patient identification check). The transfusion card must be 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 Transfusion Medicine Laboratory (TML) at the final 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 products are not required in the emergency room or other care area.
7. Contents of the transport container shall be accepted into inventory, if acceptable, once received in the TML.
8. The transport container (with temperature recorder if applicable) shall be returned to originating TML with routine courier service.
9. All transfusion data (transfusion cards) shall be relayed (or faxed) back to the originating TML.

Guidelines

1. A temperature monitoring device may be added to the transport container to ensure the transport container maintains appropriate temperature. This should not be disturbed if the transport container is opened.

Key Words

Transportation, blood components, blood products

References

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