Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

TRANSPORT OF BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS FROM FACILITY TO FACILITY	NLBCP-041

Office of Administrative Responsibility	Issuing Authority
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Overview

All Regional Health Authorities shall develop and implement policies, processes and procedures that comply with Provincial Blood Coordinating Program policy for the safe release, storage, packing and transportation of blood components and blood products from facility to facility.

Policy

1. Blood components and blood products shall be transported in a system that remains within environmental specifications at all times.
    1.1. There shall be documentation to show temperature was maintained within the required range. If shipment is made using a validated box, the statement of validation fulfills the requirement for documented evidence.
    1.2. Provincial regulations regarding validation may apply.
    1.3. Transportation time shall not exceed the limit of the validated transport container, without documentation to show temperature was maintained with the range required.
2. All blood components and blood products shall be inspected for abnormal appearance immediately before packing for transport, and this shall be documented.
    2.1. Components or products that do not pass visual inspection shall not be shipped for transfusion.
3. Shipping containers for blood components and blood products shall be constructed to resist damage and shall be designed to include and include a tamper evident seal.
4. Platelet shipment shall not exceed 24 hours due to discontinuation of platelet agitation during transport.
5. The shipping container shall have an outer label that meets provincial or federal transport regulations and identifies:
    5.1. The issuing facility (shipping facility);
    5.2. The receiving facility;
    5.3. That the contents are human blood components or blood products; and
    5.4. Any other cautions or descriptions in accordance with the applicable requirements.
6. All blood components and blood products being transported shall include a packing slip which identifies:
    6.1. The shipping facility;
    6.2. The receiving facility;

6.3. Identification numbers and types of blood components and/or blood products being shipped;

6.4. Status of any quarantined blood components and/or blood products being shipped;

6.5. Total number of blood components or blood products;

6.6. Date and time of shipping;

6.7. Individual who packed the shipment; and

6.8. Unique number of the packing slip.

7. For transport:

7.1. Blood components and/or blood with a specified storage temperature of 1–6°C shall be maintained during transport at a temperature of 1–10°C for no longer than 24 hours. After 24 hours a temperature 1–6°C must be maintained.

7.2. Blood components and/or blood with a specified storage temperature 20–24°C shall be transported at 20–24°C.

7.3. Blood components and/or blood frozen shall be maintained frozen.

Guidelines

1. Plasma protein products that are transferred from one facility to another should have a minimum of three (3) months expiry remaining. Exceptions may apply if the receiving facility is in need of the product and has authorized the transfer.

Procedure

Shipping/Issuing Hospital

1. Perform visual inspection of blood component(s) or product(s) to be shipped. (See Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Blood Products)

1. Notify the receiving facility. (See Notification and Follow-up When Sending Samples, Blood Products and Blood Components)

2. Prepare the transfer log or site batch and include with shipment.

3. Package and ship according to facility policy.

Receiving Hospital

2. Perform visual check of shipping container.

3. Open the shipping container and remove the transfer log or site batch report.

4. Ensure documentation is complete.
5. Verify temperature was maintained during shipment or shipment was within time parameters if using a validated box.
6. Perform visual inspection of blood component(s) or product(s).
7. Enter blood component(s) or product(s) into hospital inventory according to facility policy if temperature and visual checks are acceptable.
8. Notify sending facility and discard according to facility policy if shipment is unacceptable.

Quality Control

1. Personnel involved in the packing and transportation of blood components and/or blood products shall be properly trained, the training shall be documented and internally assessed to ensure compliance with procedures.

Key Words

Transport, transfer, blood products, blood components

References

Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine. (2017). *Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services.* (Version 4.0). Markham, ON: Author.

Canadian Standards Association. (2015). *Blood and blood components, Z902-15.* Mississauga, ON: Author.