Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

| RETURNING BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS INTO INVENTORY | NLBCP-026 |
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| Office of Administrative Responsibility | Issuing Authority |
|---|---|
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## Overview

Requirements for returning blood components and blood products into inventory after leaving the controlled temperature environment must be followed in order to maintain the integrity of the component or product and ensure it may be safely issued for future transfusion. Failure to adhere to the storage and expiration requirements may result in decreased potency and/or risk to recipient safety.

## Policy

1. All Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) shall develop and implement policies, processes and procedures that comply with Provincial Blood Coordinating Program (PBCP) policy on the returning of blood components and blood products into inventory.
2. RHAs may develop a policy for returning platelets to inventory, separate from returning other fresh blood components.
3. Blood components and blood products shall be returned immediately to the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory (TML) if the decision is made to not transfuse.
4. A process shall be in place to ensure that the blood component or blood product has not been outside of the controlled environment for a longer time than specified by the laboratory.
    4.1. Blood components, other than platelets, that have been out of a temperature controlled environment longer than 60 minutes shall not be returned to inventory or re-issued and shall be discarded by the TML according to established facility procedure.
    4.2. Blood products shall be maintained within the temperature parameters described in the product monograph. There shall be documentation to confirm.
5. All closures of blood component bag or blood product vial or container shall be intact when returned to inventory.
6. Acceptable visual inspection of a blood component or blood product to return to inventory shall be documented. Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Blood Products
7. Blood components, other than platelets, may be outside a temperature controlled environment for no longer than 60 minutes to prevent replication of contaminating bacteria.

## Guidelines

1. Maximum time without agitation for platelets is 24 hours.
2. Temperature requirements during transport of blood components may differ from those during storage.
   2.1. Red blood cells are stored at 1–6°C, but may be transported at 1–10°C for up to 24 hours.

## Procedure

1. Document the date and time that the blood component or blood product is returned to the TML.
   1.1. Ensure time out of temperature controlled storage has not exceeded 60 minutes for blood components, other than platelets.
2. Perform visual inspection of blood component or blood product and document.
3. Ensure temperature has met quality requirements as defined by TML.
4. Blood components and/or blood products that meet the criteria can be returned to inventory.
5. Blood components and/or blood products that do not meet criteria must be discarded according to facility procedure.
   5.1. Document the final status and the reason for final disposition/discard of the blood component or product according to facility procedure.
   5.2. Complete facility occurrence report if necessary.

## Quality Control

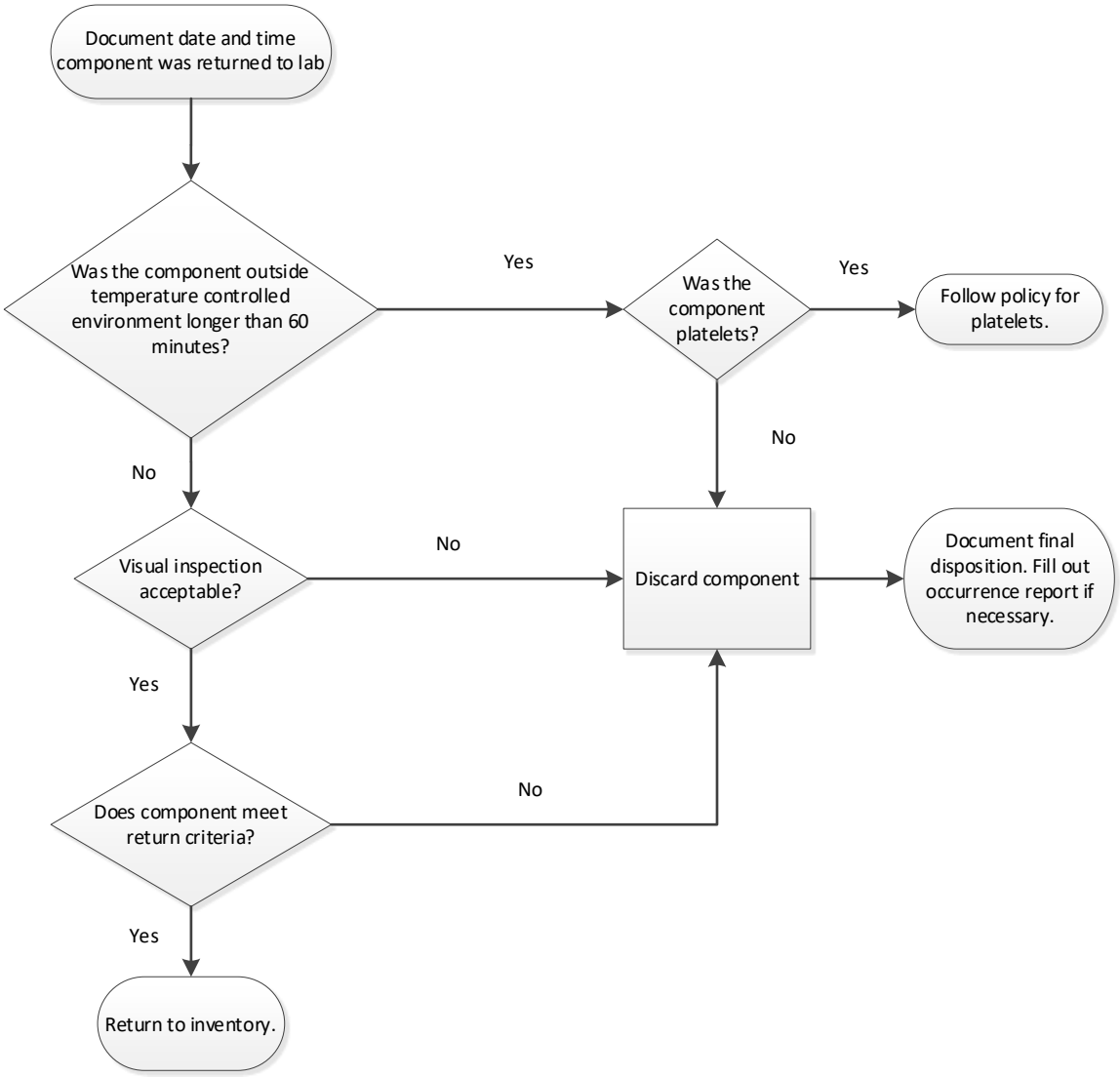
1. Mechanisms to ensure component temperature is within acceptable range on return to TML may include:
   1.1. The use of temperature indicator stickers on all red cell units;
   1.2. A complete physical check of temperature on returned units using calibrated equipment;
   1.3. The implementation of strict guidelines for the control of blood components or blood products outside the laboratory coupled with periodic audits of compliance; or,

1.4. The use of validated transport containers that are capable of maintaining the appropriate temperature, coupled with periodic audits.

## Key Words

Inventory, return, temperature

## Supplemental Materials



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