



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services  
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

<b>TRANSPORT OF BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS WITHIN A FACILITY</b>	<b>NLBPCP-035</b>
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## Overview

When blood components or blood products are retrieved from the Transfusion Medicine Laboratory (TML) for transfusion, they must be handled in an acceptable manner in order to maintain the integrity of the component or product. There shall be guidelines that specify who may sign out and transport blood components and products, 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 blood products.
2. Blood components and blood products shall only be stored in areas where temperatures are monitored specifically for blood components and products.
3. Once blood components or blood products are issued 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 (RBC) 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 RBCs shall be returned to the TML.
5. All blood components and blood products shall have a compatibility label/tag attached when removed from TML.
6. Transporter shall notify staff at the patient care area that the blood components or blood products has been delivered.

## Guidelines

1. Blood components and blood products should not be retrieved until:
  - 1.1. the recipient is at the location where the transfusion will be administered;
  - 1.2. the patients has been properly prepared; and
  - 1.3. the transfusionist is ready to initiate the transfusion.
2. RBCs may remain outside of controlled storage for 60 minutes before they are unacceptable to be returned to the TML.

## Quality Control

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

## Key Words

Transportation, blood components, blood products

## References

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