



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Health and Community Services
Provincial Blood Coordinating Program

INTER-HOSPITAL TRANSFER OF BLOOD COMPONENTS AND BLOOD PRODUCTS	NLBPCP-008
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Overview

Inter-hospital transfer supports inventory management through the transfer of blood components and blood products from one transfusion site to another to reduce the amount of wastage due to expiration.

Policy

1. All blood components and blood products shall be shipped in such a manner that they are maintained within specified conditions at all times.
2. All containers used shall be validated before use to ensure that the proper transport temperature is maintained.
3. All blood components and blood products shall be traceable from collection to final disposition.
4. All blood components and blood products shall be inspected for abnormal appearance immediately before packing for transport, and this inspection shall be documented.
5. Blood components and blood products that do not pass visual inspection shall be quarantined and possibly discarded and the action documented.
6. Blood Components and blood products shall be shipped in accordance with the [Transport of Blood Components and Blood Products from Facility to Facility](#) policy.
7. Transportation time shall not exceed the validated limits of the shipping container, unless there is a temperature monitoring device that can ensure appropriate temperature was maintained past the validation time.
8. The shipping container shall have an outer label that meets provincial/territorial and federal transport regulations. The label shall identify the shipping facility, the receiving facility and that the contents are human blood components.
9. If unable to ship at designated time, the shipping site shall notify the receiving site so that the receiving site's inventory is not negatively impacted.
10. RBC units selected for transfer shall have a minimum of 10 days prior to the expiry date, unless receiving hospital agrees to accept a shorter date.
11. Blood components and blood products other than RBC shall have a minimum of three (3) months prior to the expiry date, unless receiving hospital agrees to accept a shorter date.

Guidelines

[Visual inspection of blood components and blood products](#)

Procedure

[Notification Policy](#)

Quality Control

1. A constant temperature-monitoring device. The documented temperature during transport ensures the temperature specifications were maintained.
2. The certificate of validation on the shipping containers.

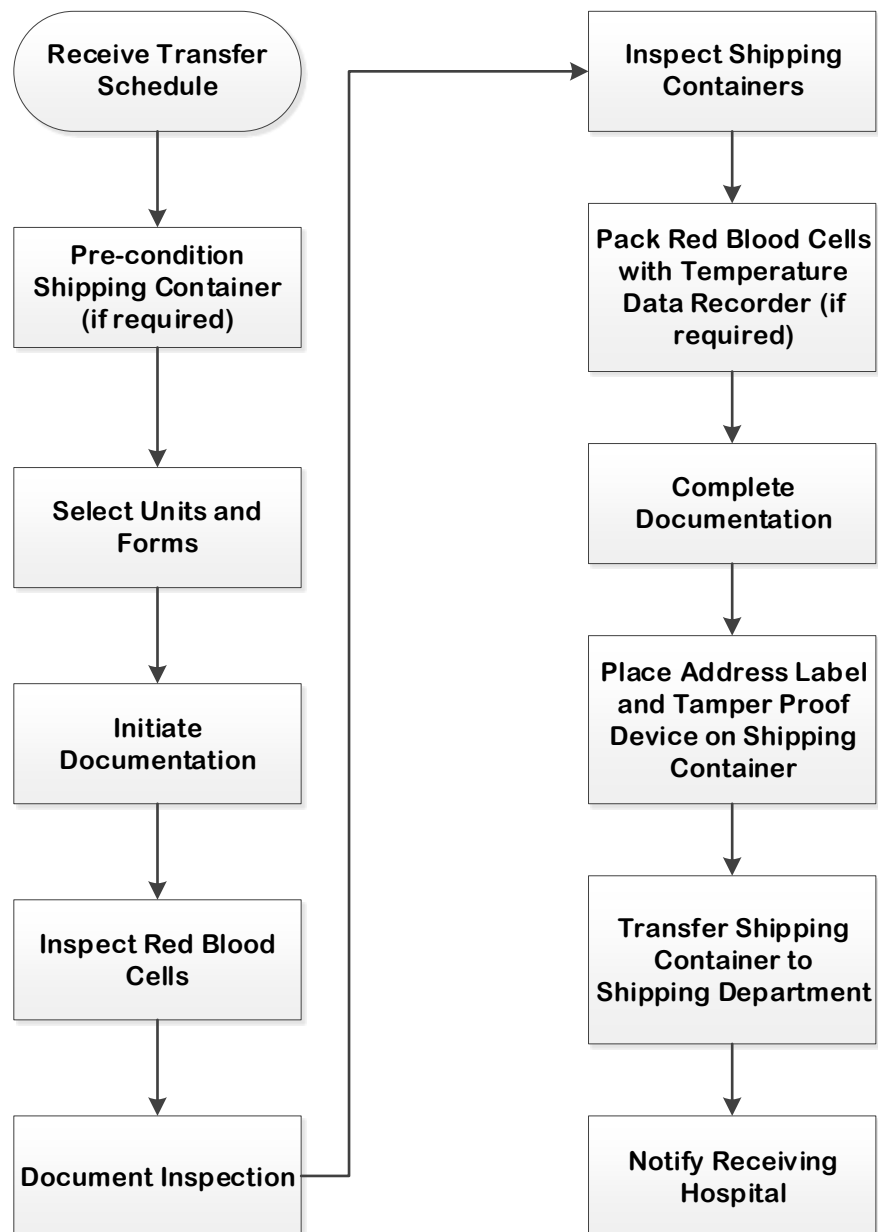
Key Words

Inter-hospital transfer

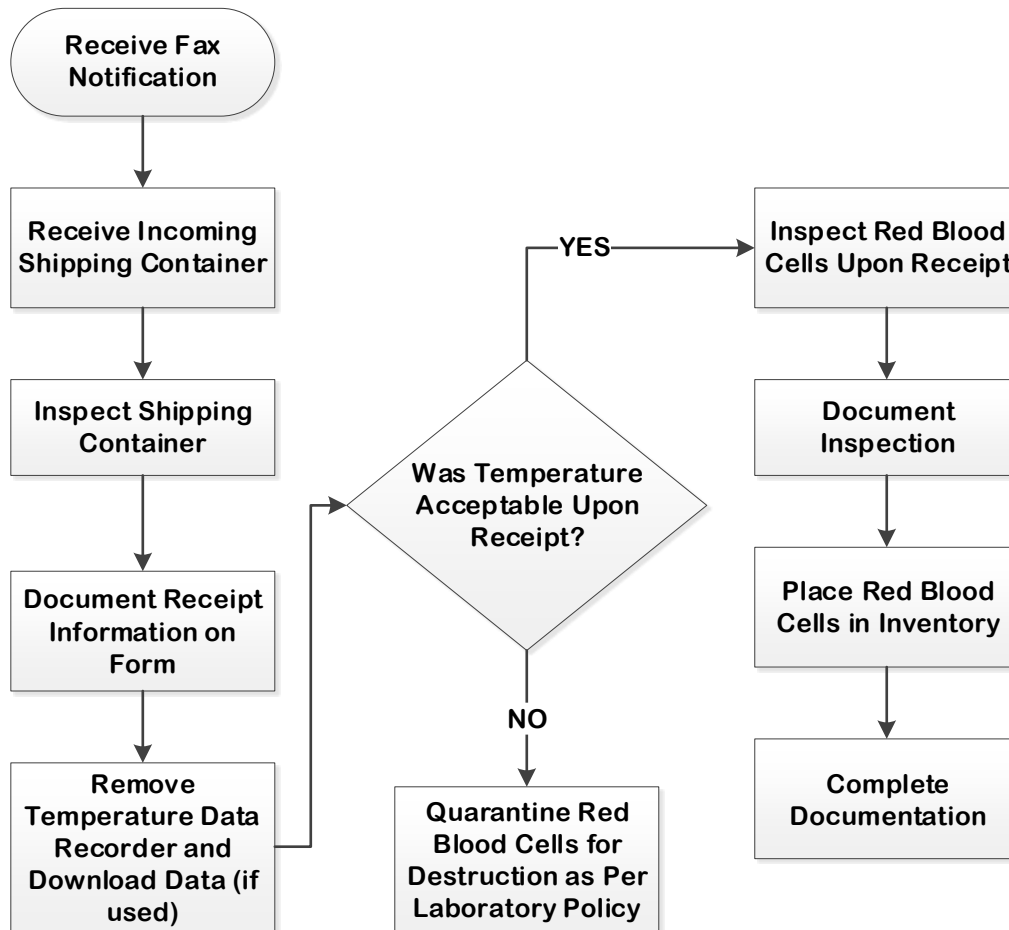
Supplemental Materials

Process Flow/Algorithm

Shipping Site Process Flow



Receiving Site Process Flow



References

- Canadian Standards Association (2015). *Blood and blood components, Z902- 15, Amendments*. Mississauga (ON): Author.
- Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine. (2017). *Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services*. (Version 4.0). Markham, ON: Author.
- Dunbar, N. & Harm, S. *Transfusion-Service-Related Activities: Pretransfusion Testing and Storage, Monitoring, Processing, Distribution, and Inventory Management of Blood Components*. In: Fung M, Eder, A.F., Spitalnik, S.L, & Westhoff CM. Technical manual. 19th edition. Bethesda, MD: AABB, 2017:457-488.