

Beaumont

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Area	Laboratory-Blood Bank
Applicability	Dearborn

Use of Blood Warmers - Dearborn Blood Bank

Document Type: Procedure

I. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE:

This document will describe the use and responsibilities for blood warmers utilized at Beaumont Hospital Dearborn.

II. POLICIES:

- A. Blood warmers are used in the hospital under the supervision of Anesthesia and Nursing. Refer to Nursing policy, [Blood Warmer](#) for instructions for use of these blood warmers.
- B. All requests for blood warmers are referred to the Biomedical Department.
- C. Use of blood warmers are indicated when patients are receiving refrigerated blood at rates faster than 100 ml/min for 30 minutes or more. Rapid infusion of large volumes of cold blood can cause arrhythmia and hypothermia in all patients, especially neonates.
- D. High volume transfusions should only occur in the operating room setting or in trauma situations requiring massive blood transfusions.
- E. Blood warmers must not raise the temperature of blood to a level that causes hemolysis (>42°C)
- F. Blood warmers are maintained by the Biomedical Clinical Engineering Department.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. If a request for a blood warmer is received in the blood bank, direct the caller to the Biomedical Department at 1-248-551-6300.

IV. REFERENCES:

1. AABB *Technical Manual*, current edition.
2. AABB *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Medicine*, current edition.
3. College of American Pathologists, *Transfusion Medicine Checklist*, current edition.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
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