PROCEDURE
Corewell Health East - Issuing Blood Products in a Cooler - Grosse Pointe

This Procedure is Applicable to the following Corewell Health sites:
Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital

Applicability Limited to: N/A

Reference #: 33889

Version #: 2

Effective Date: 06/03/2025

Functional Area: Clinical Operations, Laboratory

Lab Department Area: Lab - Blood Bank

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1. Principle

The purpose of this document is to provide the Blood Bank staff with instructions for transporting packed cells (RBCs) and plasma units in a cooler.

2. Responsibility

Personnel who have completed the competency requirements will perform this testing.

3. Policies

A. Transport of blood in a cooler is authorized only for Massive Transfusion Protocols and when requested for Level 1 Trauma activations.
B. Each cooler must contain products for only one patient.
C. Each cooler must contain no more than 6 units at a time.
D. Coolers must be returned to the Blood Bank within 4 hours of issue or whenever the Massive Transfusion Protocol is discontinued; whichever is sooner.
E. Platelets and Cryoprecipitate must not be transported in a cooler.

4. Reagent/Equipment Needed

Credo Thermal Packaging Solution, consisting of:
A. Igloo Maxcold cooler
B. Credo Thermal Isolation Chamber (TIC)

5. Quality Control

A. Blood transport coolers are validated to maintain temperature of up to six (6) RBC or plasma units between 1-6°C for a period of up to four (4) hours.
B. RBCs and plasma returned in a cooler are inspected by blood bank staff prior to being placed back into inventory. All units of questionable quality are physically quarantined or discarded.

6. Procedure

A. Before you get started:

Issue units in the computer system prior to packing them in the cooler. If available, verify product labeling with a second technologist.

B. Preparation and Issue:

1. Remove one set (A, B, or C) of a thermal isolation chamber (TIC) from the refrigerator.
2. Insert a large TIC panel into the bottom of the corresponding Igloo cooler with the white Credo Cube logo facing up.
3. Add 4 TIC panels (2 large and 2 small) to form the side walls with the white Credo Cube logo facing inward.
4. Place RBCs and plasma units in the cooler. Do not place cryoprecipitate or platelets in a cooler.
5. Place the final TIC panel over the payload area, ensuring the panel lies flat and level without forcing onto TIC side walls.
6. Rotate cooler lid until the handle is back in the vertical position and lid locks into place.
7. Verify copies of the transfusion tag with the Urgent Request for Blood Product or dispense form presented by the person transporting the cooler.
8. Give to appropriate personnel to take to patient care area.

C. Cooler return:

1. Open the cooler as soon as possible after return to the Blood Bank. Verify that all components are in place. Contact the patient care area returning the cooler if any TIC components are missing.
2. Determine if returned products are acceptable for re-issue. See Transfusion Medicine policies Corewell Health East - Return of Blood Products from Issue - All Beaumont Hospitals and Corewell Health East - Blood Product - Quarantine or Discard - All Beaumont Hospitals.
3. Return any acceptable units in the Laboratory Information System (LIS), reprinting any tags as needed.
4. Discard any products that are unacceptable for return in the biohazardous waste and update their status in the LIS.

7. Revisions

Corewell Health reserves the right to alter, amend, modify or eliminate this document at any time without prior written notice.

8. References

1. AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, current edition
2. AABB Technical Manual, current edition

9. Procedure Development and Approval

Document Owner:

Laura Judd (Operations Specialist)

Writer(s):

Karrie Torgerson (Medical Technologist Lead)

Reviewer(s):

Abigail Swaney (Medical Technologist)

Approver:

Brittnie Berger (Dir Sr, Lab Operations), Elzbieta Wystepek (Dir, Laboratory Services), Hassan Kanaan (OUWB Clinical Faculty), Kelly Sartor (Mgr, Division Laboratory), Ryan Johnson (OUWB Clinical Faculty), Sarah Britton (VP, Laboratory Svcs), Teresa Lovins (Supv, Laboratory)

10. Keywords

Not Set