**Purpose:**

This procedure provides instructions for washing red cell samples manually or with an automated cell washer.

**Procedure:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Action** | **Related Documents** |
| **Procedure A: Manual Wash of Cell Button/1 drop Cell Suspension** | |  |
| **1** | * Examine source saline for appropriate labeling:   + Expiration date   + Lot Number |  |
| **2** | * Ensure cell button is completely resuspended before adding saline to tube. |  |
| **3** | * In appropriately labelled tube, dispense saline from a squeeze bottle: * Fill tube ¾ full. Do not touch tip of bottle to side of tube |  |
| **4** | * Spin according to posted centrifuge settings for WASH cycle. |  |
| **5** | * Decant saline and resuspend cell buttons. * *NOTE: Check cell button size. Too small or too large may affect test results.* |  |
| **6** | * Repeat steps 3-5: * 4 times wash is standard. * Additional washes may be indicated by specific procedure. |  |
| **7** | * Decant last wash completely. |  |
| **8** | * Repeat testing if inadequate cell button remains. |  |
| **Procedure B: Automated Cell Washing** | |  |
|  | * Examine source saline for appropriate labeling: * Expiration date * Lot Number |  |
|  | * Confirm cell washer daily QC has been performed. | * + Cell Washer QC/PM |
|  | Select appropriate cycle:   * 4 times wash is standard. * Additional washes may be indicated by specific procedure. |  |
|  | **Action** | **Related Documents** |
| **Procedure B: Automated Cell Washing continued.** | |  |
|  | * Listen to first cycle: * Saline pump is running. * Centrifuge starts and no unusual or unexpected sounds. |  |
|  | * When cycle is complete, open cell washer and check tubes: * Minimal residual saline * Adequate cell button remains |  |
|  | * Repeat testing if inadequate cell button remains. |  |
| **Procedure C: Manual Washing of Large Volume Red Cell Suspensions** | |  |
|  | * Examine source saline for appropriate labeling: * Expiration date * Lot Number |  |
|  | * Ensure cell suspension is thoroughly mixed before adding saline to tube. |  |
|  | * In appropriately labelled tube, dispense saline from a squeeze bottle: * Fill tube ¾ full * Do not touch tip of bottle to side of tube |  |
|  | * Spin according to posted centrifuge settings for WASH cycle. |  |
|  | * *Decant tubes gently by dumping them into the cup sink, and resuspend in saline left in tubes before adding new saline from the squeeze bottle.* |  |
|  | * Repeat steps 3-5: * 4 times wash is standard. * Additional washes may be indicated by specific procedure. |  |
|  | * After last decant, spin again and remove as much residual saline as possible. |  |

**References:**

Technical Manual, Current Edition

Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, Current Edition

Helmer Ultra Cw Operators Manual