Purpose: To describe the inspection process and define inspection criteria.

Policy:

All blood components will be inspected to insure acceptability at receipt, labeling, issue, return from issue, & prior to shipping.

Procedure:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  Step | Action | Related Documents |
| Verify Condition of Product |
| 1 | * Frozen Blood Products:
* All areas are frozen solid.
 |   |
| 2 | * + Refrigerated Blood Products:
* Units have been out of monitored storage or shipping container < 30 mins
* Contents are free-flowing liquid.
 |   |
| 3 | * + - * Room Temperature Blood Products:
* Contents are free-flowing liquid.
* Platelets exhibit “Swirling”
 |   |
|  Verify Label  |
| 1 | * Unit identification and base label:
* Label is legible
* One unique unit number
* Aliquot number, if applicable
* Expiration date and time
* ABO/Rh Label
 |   |
| 2 | * + Attributes:
* Irradiated
* Leukocyte Reduced
* CMV Negative
* Washed
* Deglycerolized
* Volume Reduced
 |   |
| 4 | * + Tags are securely attached:
* Autologous Tie Tag
* Directed Donation Tie Tag
* Antigen typing
* HLA-Matched/Crossmatched Apheresis Tie Tag
* Granulocyte Tie Tag
 |   |
|  Step | Action | Related Documents |
| 5 | * + Mechanical Damage or Stains:
* Blood or plasma stains
* Tears that obliterate information
* Additional labels that obscure other label information
* Pen marks or writing
 |  |
| Verify Component Bag Integrity |
| 1 | * Inspect for leaks, breaks or tears by applying light pressure to the unit:
* Bag seams
* Port area
 |  |
| 2 | * + Inspect port areas and sealing sites for the presence of blood or plasma which may indicate inadequate closure or sealing.
 |  |
| 3 | * + Inspect port areas of thawed plasma and cryoprecipitate for moisture.
 |  |
| 4 | * + Cellular Components: Confirm the presence of at least two integrally attached segments.
 |  |
|  Verify Color and Consistency of Contents. |
| 1 | Plasma is clear with no visible clots or fibrin strands | * + Visual Inspection of Plasma Products
* Visual Inspection of Red Cell Products
 |
| 2 | Unusual color. Contamination should be suspected if:* Segments appear much lighter in color than what is in the bag
* Red cell mass is purple or brown.
* Plasma or supernatant fluid is murky, purple, brown or red
 |
| 3 | Opacity of plasma units prevents inspection for clots or fibrin strands |
| 4 | Acceptable plasma colors:* Light to moderate straw
* Green hue due to light-induced changes in bilirubin
* Pale green color due to birth control pills
 |
| 5 | Cryoprecipitate, following thawing, is an even, thick, whitish liquid |
| 6 | Segments: minimal hemolysis is visible |
| 7 | Cellular components are free of visible particulate matter |
| 1. If all acceptable criteria met, the inspection acceptable.
 |
| 1. If any unacceptable findings, quarantine blood product
 | * + Quarantine of Blood Products
 |

References:

*Visual Inspection of Blood Components,* AABB Press

Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, Current Edition. American Association of Blood Banks. AABB Press, Bethesda, MD