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