



University of Washington Medical Center  
1959 NE Pacific Street. Seattle, WA 98195  
Transfusion Services Laboratory  
Policies and Procedures Manual

Original Effective Date:  
03-27-2021  
Revision Effective Date:  
03-27-2021

Number:  
PC-  
0098.01

**TITLE: Packing and Shipping Blood Components from Montlake**

**PURPOSE:**

To specify the process to pack and ship blood components between inventory locations outside of University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). This does not include transfer of blood components between the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor UWMC locations

**LOCATION:**

Montlake Transfusion Service Laboratory (TSL)

**PRINCIPLE & CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Principle**

When shipping to areas outside the facility, blood components must be packed in a manner such that required shipping temperatures are maintained

**Clinical Significance**

Blood components not shipped at the proper temperatures are at increased risk for bacterial contamination, hemolysis and other deleterious effects or may otherwise not function as expected and should be discarded to protect the potential recipient

**POLICIES:**

Validated blood component shipping containers supplied by Bloodworks Northwest (BWNW) or American Red Cross will be used for transport between UWMC TSL, Northwest (NW) and SCCA

**REAGENTS/SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT:**

Reagents:	Supplies:	Equipment:
NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absorbent Material</li> <li>• Plastic Liners</li> <li>• Coolants depending on components:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wet ice</li> <li>○ Frozen coolant packs</li> <li>○ Gel packs wrapped in bubble wrap stored at 20-24°C</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Shipping Container

**QUALITY CONTROL:**

Shipping conditions will be monitored routinely upon component receipt and shipment

**INSTRUCTIONS:  
TABLE of CONTENTS**

- [Verifying Component Is Correct Prior to Packing](#)
- [Updating Blood Components to “In-Transit” Status in Sunquest](#)
- [Printing the Blood Component Transport List – BBR9](#)
- [Receiving Blood Components Transferred from Another UWMC Facility Blood Components for Shipment](#)

**Verifying Component Is Correct Prior to Packing**

STEP	ACTION	
<b>1</b>	<b>If Component is</b>	<b>Then</b>
	Allocated	Go to next step
	Not allocated	Go to step 5
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify patient test interpretation and BAD file ABO/Rh are acceptable</li> <li>• Resolve any discrepancies prior to shipping component</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify the blood component meets all patient transfusion requirements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blood component ABO/Rh is compatible with the patient’s ABO/Rh requirements in SQ</li> <li>○ Blood component type matches the component ordered (attributes, special requirements and component type (i.e. irradiated or pathogen reduced for red cells and platelets;</li> <li>○ Blood component matches patient requirements in SQ BAD file (Antigen/Antibody, attributes, special requirements and other comments)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Resolve any discrepancies prior to shipping component</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	Verify the following information agrees	
	<b>Transfusion Record</b>	<b>Blood Component (ISBT) Label</b>
	Name & MR #	
	Recipient Type	
	Donor Blood Type	Donor Blood Type
	Unit Number/Div.	Unit Number/Div.
	Unit Expiration	Unit Expiration
	Component Type	Component Type
<b>5</b>	Verify the blood component is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irradiated or pathogen reduced for red cells and platelets</li> <li>• Correct type of platelet (PAS or non-PAS)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blood component is labeled correctly with attributes and such as irradiation, volume reduction or washing as applicable Irradiated or pathogen reduced for red cells and platelets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expiration date is correct and not expiring before appointment</li> <li>• Resolve any discrepancies prior to shipping component</li> </ul>	

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STEP	ACTION
6	<p>Document the above verification is complete by writing the following on the Blood component transport list (BBR9) report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tech ID</li> <li>• Date and Time</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Blood components must be placed “In-Transit” status and the report printed per section <a href="#">“Printing the Blood Component Transport List – BBR9”</a> before completing this step</p>
7	Go to next section to move components to “In-Transit” status

**Updating Blood Components to “In-Transit” Status in Sunquest**

STEP	ACTION												
1	Open SQ (Sunquest) function “Blood Status Update”												
2	Select < <i>In-Transit</i> > from the drop-down menu in the “Update Option” field												
3	<p>Scan the unit number(s) and component code(s) of the component(s) to be transferred in the <u>U</u>nit # and <u>C</u>omponent fields</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The component code should be scanned to ensure the correct component type is listed, even if it prepopulates upon scanning the unit number</p>												
4	Click <Sub <u>mi</u> t> after scanning all components												
5	Tab through the date and time to enter the current date/ time, or manually enter the correct date/time, if necessary												
6	Choose the appropriate “Destination” code and enter in the “Destination” field												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If shipping to</th> <th>Then choose Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UWMC TSL</td> <td>BB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCCA Alliance Lab TSS</td> <td>SA1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harborview TSL</td> <td>HTSL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northwest TSS</td> <td>NWBB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UWMC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor OR</td> <td><b>DO NOT USE</b> this process (Blood Status Update) go to SOP <i>Transferring Components Between UWMC Inventory Locations</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If shipping to	Then choose Code	UWMC TSL	BB	SCCA Alliance Lab TSS	SA1	Harborview TSL	HTSL	Northwest TSS	NWBB	UWMC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor OR	<b>DO NOT USE</b> this process (Blood Status Update) go to SOP <i>Transferring Components Between UWMC Inventory Locations</i>
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7	Press <Tab> (the Visual Inspection field will appear)												
8	Perform a <b>visual inspection</b> and document the results in the visual inspection field (refer to SOP: <i>Visual Inspection of Blood Components</i> )												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If the inspection</th> <th>Then select the following</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Passes for all component</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Y</u>es</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If the inspection	Then select the following	Passes for all component	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Y</u> es								
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STEP	ACTION	
	Fails for any component	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select Pass or Fail from the dropdown box in the VI (visual inspection) field for each unit</li> <li>Click &lt; OK&gt; on the pop-up message” Visual Inspection Failure – Status Change Required unit will not be shipped to this destination”</li> <li>Enter the appropriate Reason code for the failure</li> <li>Click &lt;Continue&gt;. Refer to SOP: <i>Quarantine and Final Disposition of Blood Components, Appendix A</i>)</li> <li>Enter a comment regarding the problem identified</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Components failing visual inspection must be packed and shipped separate from acceptable components and will not print on the BBR9</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Click &lt;Continue&gt;</li> <li>Click &lt;9. Unit Location&gt; to open the “Location Update” dialog box</li> </ul>	
10	Select the correct inventory destination	
11	Click <OK>, <Continue> and <Save> at the bottom of the screen to complete the transfer	
12	Go to next section	

**Printing the Blood Component Transport List – BBR9**

STEP	ACTION	
1	<b>If location is</b>	<b>Then log into</b>
	UWMC	“SmarTerm”
	SCCA	Sunquest roll and scroll application
2	Enter “BBR” at the function prompt	
3	Enter the desired Sunquest printer number for the report to print	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press &lt;Enter&gt; to return past the “Use of Host” prompt</li> <li>Enter “9” at the prompt “?” on the Select Option screen to select the <i>Ship Out List</i> report</li> </ul>	
5	Enter the starting unit location in the “HOSPITAL ID” or select all option by pressing <Enter>	
	<b>If start location is</b>	<b>Enter</b>
	UWMC, SCCA or NW	U
	HMC	H
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press &lt;Enter&gt; at the Area prompt</li> <li>Enter &lt;A&gt; to accept the entries</li> </ul>	
7	Enter <Y> at “SEPARATE REPORT BY HOSPITAL/AREA?” if prompted	

STEP	ACTION										
8	Enter the "Start Date" and "End Date" (Enter T to default today)										
9	Enter the "Start Time" and "End Time" (Enter T to default today)  <b>NOTE:</b> Start and end time should be narrow enough to exclude other shipment, but broad enough to include the shipment being processed. Use of 15-minute intervals is suggested. It is generally sufficient to answer the start and end time of the shipment window as T unless multiple shipments have occurred in the same time period and it is desired to isolate the individual shipment.										
10	Enter the Destination										
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11	Enter the Component Type/Group										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component group</th> <th>Enter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RBC (includes granulocytes)</td> <td>RBCG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Platelets</td> <td>PLG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plasma</td> <td>PLSG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cryoprecipitate</td> <td>CRYG</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component group	Enter	RBC (includes granulocytes)	RBCG	Platelets	PLG	Plasma	PLSG	Cryoprecipitate	CRYG
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	RBC (includes granulocytes)	RBCG									
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Plasma	PLSG										
Cryoprecipitate	CRYG										
12	Enter "IT" at the "Print status SO, IT or <Both>?"										
13	Enter <A> to accept the entries										
14	Retrieve the report from the printer and verify that the list matches the components being shipped  <b>NOTE:</b> Resolve any discrepancies before shipping. It may be necessary to rerun the report and adjust the report parameters accordingly to verify all of the components were placed into transit as intended.										
15	Close SmarTerm										
16	Document completion of section "Verifying Component Is Correct Prior to Shipping" writing the following on the report										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tech ID</li> <li>• Date and Time</li> </ul>										
	<b>NOTE:</b> Refer to Step 6 section "Verifying Component Is Correct Prior to Shipping"										
17	Make a photocopy of the report:										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• File the original in the appropriate location</li> <li>• Sent the copy with the shipment per section "<a href="#">Packing Blood Components for Shipment</a>"</li> </ul>										
18	Go to section " <a href="#">Packing Blood Components for Shipment</a> "										

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**Receiving Blood Component Transferred from Another UWMC Facility**

STEP	ACTION						
1	Review the packing list (BBR9) against the shipment to ensure all components are accounted for  <b>NOTE:</b> Any discrepancies must be resolved by contacting the facility where the shipment originated						
2	Open SQ function "Blood Status Update"						
3	Select < <i>In-Transit to Inventory</i> > from the drop-down menu in the "Update Option" field						
4	Scan the unit number and component code of the component to be received in the "Unit #" and <u>C</u> omponent fields						
5	Tab through the date and time to enter the current date/ time, or manually enter the correct date/time if necessary						
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press &lt;Tab&gt; to enter "INV ~Inventory" as the default in the "New status" field</li> <li>Press &lt;Tab&gt; again and a "Temperature field" will open – do not enter temperature data</li> </ul> <b>NOTE:</b> Do not enter temperature data in this field. Sunquest does not have logic to alert the user if the temperature is out of range. If there are concerns regarding product transport conditions, refer to SOP: Quarantine and Final Disposition of Blood Components.						
7	Press Tab and the "Pass visual inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No" will appear						
8	Perform a visual inspection and document the results of the inspection (refer to SOP <i>Visual Inspection of Blood Components</i> )						
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9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Click &lt;9. Unit Location&gt;</li> <li>Verify the components are listed in the correct inventory destination</li> <li>Click &lt;OK&gt;</li> </ul>						
10	Click <S <u>a</u> ve> at the bottom of the screen to complete the transfer						
11	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>If</th> <th>Then</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unit is allocated with transfusion tag attached</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select the new status of the unit in the Reallocation of Unit section</li> <li>Allocated- Remains allocated to the patient</li> <li>Released- Unit will not be allocated to the patient</li> <li>Click Save</li> </ul> <b>NOTE:</b> if incorrect unit status is chosen, notify UWMC TSL immediately </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If	Then	Unit is allocated with transfusion tag attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select the new status of the unit in the Reallocation of Unit section</li> <li>Allocated- Remains allocated to the patient</li> <li>Released- Unit will not be allocated to the patient</li> <li>Click Save</li> </ul> <b>NOTE:</b> if incorrect unit status is chosen, notify UWMC TSL immediately		
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STEP	ACTION	
	Unit is not allocated	Go to next step
12	Repeat steps 4-11 for each additional unit	

**Packing Blood Components for Shipment**

STEP	ACTION	
1	Select the appropriate shipping container based on the number of components and required shipping temperature (refer to Appendix A: Packing Job Aid)	
2	Place absorbent material in the bottom of the container and then place plastic liner inside the shipping container	
3	Insert blood components into the plastic liner and fold the liner over the units	
4	<b>If shipping temperature is</b>	<b>Then</b>
	Refrigerated (1-6°C)	Place bagged wet ice on top of the units, distributing the ice evenly on top of the units
	Room Temperature (20-24°C)	Place wrapped gel temperature stabilizer packs on top of the units, distributing the packs evenly on top of the units
Refer to Appendix A: Packing Job Aid for amount of coolant		
5	Replace foam insert or Styrofoam lid depending on the type of container	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place the Blood Component Transport List – BBR9 on top of the foam insert</li> <li>Close the lid and seal if necessary</li> </ul>	
7	Attach the label to the box indicating the appropriate shipment destination	

**PROCEDURE NOTES/LIMITATIONS**

- For autologous or other rare or difficult to replace units, it may be necessary to preserve units that have been exposed to temperatures outside of the acceptable range. In these circumstances, the medical director approval is required. Approval and reason for deviation to the SOP must be documented.
- The same packing processes may also be used during emergency storage events when alternative equipment storage unit is not available. Refer to SOP: Blood Storage and Inventory Management

**REFERENCES:**

- Technical Manual. Bethesda, MD; AABB, current edition.
- Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services. Bethesda, MD; AABB, current edition.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

SOP Visual Inspection of Blood Components  
 SOP Emergency Storage Events  
 SOP Changing Blood Location in Sunquest

**APPENDIX:**

Appendix A: Packing Job Aid

Product	Shipping Temperature	# of Components	Shipping Container	Coolant	Storage Limit
RBC/ Thawed Plasma	1-10°C	1-18	Medium	Approx. 10 lbs. wet ice (4 scoops)	24 hours
Platelets Apheresis/ Pooled Platelets	20-24°C	10	Endotherm	4 gel pack*	20 hours
Thawed Pooled Cryoprecipitate	20-24°C	1			
Granulocytes	20-24°C	1			

TRAINING



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<b>UWMC SOP Approval:</b>	
<b>Chief of Clinical Services (CLIA Medical Director)</b>	_____ Date _____
<b>Transfusion Service Manager</b>	_____ Date _____
	Nina Sen
<b>Transfusion Service Compliance Analyst</b>	_____ Date _____
	Christine Clark
<b>Transfusion Service Medical Director</b>	_____ Date _____
	Monica Pagano, MD
<b>UWMC Biennial Review:</b>	
	_____ Date _____
	_____ Date _____

03/27/2021: Replacing SOP Packing and Shipping Blood Components PC-0014.03 for components shipped from Montlake

