Copley Memorial Hospital

Policy & Procedure

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| **Title**: Blood Storage Referigerators outside of the Laboratory | **Author: Amy Sybrandy** |
| **Date Initiated: 1/8/20** | **Next Review Date:1/8/22** |
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**Purpose**

To provide guidelines for maintenance, monitoring and alarm testing of refrigerators that store blood products.

**Policy**

Refrigerators that hold or store blood products must meet certain quality and requlatory standards including the requirement of daily temperature documentation. Temperatures are monitored 24/7 using the Metasys system. The Blood Bank Senior Technologist or Designee will review charts monthly and all charts will be retained for ten years. All Blood Bank refrigerators have recording thermometers and must have audible alarms and/or visible alarms to warn continuously of abnormal temperatures. The sensors for the temperature recording system’s visual and audible alarms should be in a water container with a volume no greater than the volume of the smallest unit of blood or blood component in storage. The sensor is set to alarm when the temperature falls outside the acceptable 1 to 6 degree Celsius range. Blood Bank refrigerators are monitored 24 hours a day by an alarm system which alerts the Facilities Engineer by pager alert whenever the refrigerator exceeds its tolerance limits. Activation of this alarm system requires the Facilities Engineer to call blood bank personnel and report the status of the refrigerator.

**Procedure**

1. OR staff and L&D staff are in charge of listening for any audible alarms.
   1. If at any time the refrigerator is found to be out of the acceptable range of 1-6 degrees Celsius:
      1. The blood bank will be notified immediately and all blood products returned to the blood bank
      2. Staff will notify facilities at ext. 4444
      3. The manager of that area will be notified
2. OR staff and L&D staff will perform regular and as needed cleaning of blood refrigerators using a mild disinfectant and towel, wiping down all surfaces inside and out.
3. All refrigerator malfunctions will be reported to Facilities, Department Managers,

and Blood Bank Senior Technologist.

1. Remote temperature monitoring will be done by Facilities and Blood Bank Senior Technologist or Designee.
2. Alarm testing will be performed by Blood Bank on a quarterly basis.