**Purpose:**

To describe the Harborview Medical Transfusion Service’s policy for the storage and transport of blood products.

**Policy:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step** | **Action** | **Related Documents** |
| **General Statements** |
| **1** | * The Transfusion Service is responsible for maintaining the appropriate storage conditions for blood products while they are in TSL or in a monitored portable blood refrigerator.
* While in the TSL, red blood cells and thawed plasma will be stored in Refrigerators R1, R3, or R4.
 | * Table A: Blood Product Storage Temperatures
* Critical Equipment List
 |
| **2** | * Red blood cells (RBCs) and thawed plasma will be stored in monitored refrigeration between 1º C and 6º C, in an effort to reduce the risk of bacterial contamination. These components must not be out of monitored refrigeration for more than 30 minutes.
 | Critical Equipment List |
| **3** | * Platelets will be stored and agitated in a controlled environment between 20-24 °C, in Platelet Incubator Helmer #1 or Helmer #2.
 |  |
| **4** | * Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate will be stored in monitored freezers, F1 or F2, ≤-18°C
 | * Critical Equipment List
 |
| **5** | * Only TSL staff is authorized to remove a blood product from Lab storage locations.
* Clinical staff assigned to patient care are allowed to remove products from a portable refrigerator for a specific patient in their care during a massive transfusion event.
 |  |
| **Organization of Units**  |
| **1** | * Older blood products will be moved to the front with fresher products stored in the rear.
 |  |
| **2** | * Autologous and Directed blood products will be segregated from the general allogeneic inventory. There will be no “crossing over” of autologous or directed components to the general inventory.
 |  |
| **3** | * RBCs will be initially sequestered on the Type Confirmation Incomplete shelf until appropriate ABO/Rh testing has been completed.
 |  |
| **4** | * Red Blood Cells and Platelets will be organized by ABO and Rh type.
 |  |
| **5** | * Plasma will be organized by ABO type. Rh type is not applicable in plasma or cryoprecipitate selection.
 |  |
| **6** | * Units selected and labeled for EMERGENCY transfusion will be segregated from the general inventory.
 |  |
| **7** | * Units allocated for specific patient use will be stored:
* In alphabetical order by patient last name separate from the general inventory
* In outdate order, oldest first within patient group
 |  |
| **8** | * Products with transfusion tags will be stored:
	+ In alphabetical order by patient last name.
	+ In outdate order, oldest first within patient group
 |  |
| **Step** | **Action** | **Related Documents** |
| **Special Inventory Locations** |
| **1** | * Designated quarantine areas will be maintained for each temperature storage range.
 |  |
| **2** | * Specific holding areas may be designated for special units. Example: antigen negative units for a scheduled sickle cell exchange procedure.
 |  |
| **3** | * Units awaiting physician acceptance will be in a designated location.
 |  |
| **4** | * Granulocytes require 20 – 24 °C **without** agitation. They will be kept in the designated RT storage area between temperature stabilizers while not being tested or processed.
 |  |
| **Portable Monitored Refrigeration** |
| **1** | * Products to be issued in a portable refrigerator include:
* Stock uncrossmatched group O RBCs & stock thawed AB plasma.
* Plasma issued for therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE).
* > 2 crossmatched units of RBCs.
* > 4 units of plasma.
* ***NOTE:*** *Ask the clinician if a portable monitored refrigerator is necessary whenever more than 2 units of plasma are requested at the same time.*
 |  |

**Table A: Temperature for Blood Product Storage and Transport:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Blood Product** | **Storage Temperature (°C)** | **Transport Temperature (°C)** |
| Red Blood Cells | 1-6 | 1-10 |
| Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate | ≤ -18 | Maintain Frozen State |
| Thawed Plasma or Fresh Frozen Plasma, thawed | 1-6 | 1-10 |
| Platelets\* | 20- 24 | 20- 24 |
| Thawed Cryoprecipitate\*\* | 20- 24 | 20- 24 |
| Granulocytes\*\* | 20- 24 | 20- 24 |

**References**

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