
Section E: Storage and Return of Blood Products

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I. Storage of Blood Products

1. Blood products may NOT be stored outside of the monitored BTL fridges, freezers or specific coolers that have been validated by the BTL staff to maintain appropriate temperature.
2. ALL other fridges and freezers, even if the temperature is monitored for storage of medications, are NOT acceptable for blood products.
3. Blood product storage temperatures must be very strictly adhered to, to prevent an adverse affect on the quality of the product.

EXCEPTIONS:

Albumin may be stored at room temperature (not to exceed 30°C), but must be returned to the BTL as soon as order for transfusion of this product has been discontinued. Once spiked, the albumin must be infused within 4 hours.

IVIG, as well as some of the Immune Serum Globulins including Rh Immune Globulin (Rhlg) may be stored at room temperature up to 24 hours after issue, but should be returned to the BTL as soon as it is known that the patient will not be receiving the product. Once spiked, these products must be infused within 4 hours.

II. Return of Blood Products to the BTL

1. If the transfusion is cancelled, blood MUST be returned to the BTL IMMEDIATELY.
 - a. Returned to BTL within 30 minutes of issue: products can be accepted back into inventory. Packed Cells also need to meet the requirement of <10°C, to be accepted back into inventory.
 - b. Returned to BTL after 30 minutes of issue: the unit will be discarded in the BTL and the patient/unit transfusion history will be updated.

**Do not DISCARD in the Patient Care Areas or in Operating Rooms.
Blood Product(s) MUST be returned to BTL to maintain proper audit trail.**

2. If start of transfusion is delayed, check the "DISPENSE TIME" on the blood product chart label. If it is already close to or more than 30 minutes from dispense time, AND you will be able to complete the transfusion within 4 hours from the time of dispense, do not return to the BTL. Keep at the patient's bedside, and start transfusion ASAP.

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3. ALL empty blood product bags and vials should be discarded in appropriate biohazard waste containers on the Patient Care Areas or in Operating Rooms. ONLY products that are implicated in a transfusion reaction should be returned to the BTL. See Section L [Transfusion Reaction Course \(TRAC\) – Clinical Management](#).