TITLE: STORAGE OF BLOOD/BLOOD COMPONENTS ON PATIENT CARE UNITS

PURPOSE: To provide criteria for safe storage of blood/blood components within the satellite blood refrigerators on patient care units.

RESPONSIBILITY: RN’s, Clerks, Physicians, OR staff, Blood Bank staff

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<th>Responsible Group</th>
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<td>Patient Care Unit and Blood Bank</td>
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<td>Select Equipment</td>
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<td>Purchase Equipment</td>
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<td>Training of Unit Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Storage</td>
<td>Physicians, Nurses, Clerks, OR Aides</td>
<td>Blood should be inspected upon receipt and stored appropriately</td>
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<td>Alarm Management</td>
<td>Nurse/Clerk/Blood Bank</td>
<td>Staff on patient care unit must be available to attend to alarm conditions, consult with Blood Bank staff and promptly move components to another monitored blood storage refrigerator or return blood to the Blood Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return unneeded blood components to the Blood Bank</td>
<td>Nurse/clerk/aide taking care of the patient</td>
<td>If patient leaves the patient care area or no longer needs blood, return to the Blood Bank immediately</td>
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EQUIPMENT:

1. Approved blood storage refrigerator unit
2. TempTrak Temperature monitor probe
3. Centigrade thermometer & liquid container
4. Probe storage solution (water or water & glycerol mixture)
5. Audible alarm system
6. Recording charts

CAUTIONS:

1. No food shall be stored in the blood refrigerator.

2. Refrigerators used for blood component storage should not have any other products stored in the same compartment as blood components.

3. Only Red Blood Cells and Plasma may be stored in the blood refrigerator. Platelets and cryoprecipitate cannot be refrigerated.

4. If the patient is transferred to another patient care unit or no longer needs the components, must be returned to the Blood Bank immediately.

PROCEDURE:

1. Maintain optimum blood storage temperature in the refrigerator at all times (1.5 degree to 5.5 degree C; if not, alarm should sound).

2. If alarm sounds and/or the red light is on:
   a. Check door for proper closure.
   b. Check that there is nothing blocking the fan inside the refrigerator.
   c. Consult with Blood Bank on the next steps.

3. If changes in temperature occur that cannot be corrected to maintain the optimal level of 1.5 degree to 5.5 degree C:
   a. Return the blood to the Blood Bank or place in another monitored blood storage refrigerator.
   b. Notify Maintenance.
   c. Label equipment as defective and do not use.

4. After repair, do not use the refrigerator until quality control testing is complete and Blood Bank releases the equipment for use.

REFERENCES: Refrigerator Operator’s Manual
Code of Federal Regulations 21 CFR 640.2, 640.34

REVIEWING AUTHOR(S): Blood Bank, Transfusion Committee

APPROVED BY THE TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE ON: 11/21/11