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|  | Principle |
|  | To determine the temperature of blood and blood components manually. |
|  | Scope and Related Policies |
|  | 2.1 | Whole blood and all liquid red blood cell components must be transported in a manner that will ensure maintenance of a temperature of 1-10°C.9.1  |
|  | 2.2 | Components stored at 20-24°C should be transported at a temperature as close as possible to 20-24°C. 9.1  |
|  | 2.3 | Blood components stored frozen should be transported in a manner designed to maintain them frozen. See IM.006 – Shipment of Blood Components/Products using CBS Shipping Containers. 9.1  |
|  | Specimens – N/A |
|  | Materials |
|  | **Equipment:** Thermometer checked against a calibrated thermometer. See  QCA.008 –Functional Calibration of ThermometersCalibrated Infrared thermometer or Temperature sensing device/label**Supplies:** Rubber bands |
| **5.0** | **Quality Control – N/A** |
| 6.0 | Procedure |
| * 1. Using a thermometer:

If only one donor unit requires a temperature check, fold the donor bag and place the sensing end of a calibrated thermometer in the fold of the bag. Secure with two rubber bands. | * + 1. If more than one donor unit is to be checked, place a thermometer between the units (labels facing out) and secure the “sandwich” with two rubber bands.
 |
| * + 1. Place the thermometer so that the “expected temperature” will be visible without having to remove the thermometer from the “sandwich”.
 |
| * + 1. Leave the thermometer in place for 5 minutes.
 |
| * + 1. After five minutes, read and record the temperature on the inter-hospital transfer form, packing slip or worksheet. See Procedural Notes 8.1 and 8.2.
 |
| * 1. Using an InfraRed thermometer or a calibrated temperature sensing device:
* Use as per manufacturer’s instructions
* Document temperature on the inter-hospital transfer form, packing slip or worksheet. See Procedural Notes 8.1 and 8.2.
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| 7.0 | Reporting |
|  | 7.1 | If receiving products and the temperature of the blood component is acceptable (see Procedural Notes 8.2 for acceptable temperature ranges): |
|  |  | 7.1.1 | Receive the blood product. See IM.002 – Receiving Blood Components and Plasma Protein Products. |
|  | 7.2 | If the temperature of the blood component is unacceptable: |
|  |  | 7.2.1 | Discard the blood product. See IM.005 – Final Disposition of Blood Components and Plasma Protein Products Not Suitable for Transfusion – Manual Procedure. |
|  |  | 7.2.2 | Complete an incident report or problem log and forward it to a supervisor. |
|  |  | 7.2.3 | Report the problem to the facility that sent the blood product.  |
| **8.0** | **Procedural Notes** |
|  | 8.1 Exposure to ambient temperatures above 10°C does not necessarily render blood unsuitable for transfusion, but if the unit reaches a |
|  |  |  temperature outside the 2 to 10°C range, the unit should be discarded.Exposure to ambient temperatures above 24°C does not necessarily render platelet concentrate unsuitable for transfusion, but if the unitreaches a temperature outside the 20 to 24°C range, the unit should be discarded. |
|  | 8.2 | Acceptable storage temperature ranges are specified by the blood supplier in the Circular of Information for human blood and blood components.9.2 Acceptable temperature range during transportation of RBC components is 1 to 10°C .9.1 |
|  | 8.3 | Temperature indicators that can be affixed to the blood bag are available. Manufacturer’s instructions must be followed. |
| 9.0 | References |
|  | 9.1 | Standards for Hospital Transfusion Services Version3-February 2011. Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine, 5.6.1.5, Appendix B. |
|  | 9.2 | Circular of Information for human blood and blood components. Canadian Blood Services. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca). |
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9.3 IQMH Requirements and Guidance Information, December 2013, Version 6; IV

# 10.0 Revision History

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| --- | --- |
| **Revision Date** | **Summary of Revision** |
| September 1, 2015 | * Revised name of manual
* Revised and renumbered section 6.0
* Revised wording of section 8.2 to include “as specified by the blood supplier”
* Updated list of references to include most recent editions
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