Standard Work: Return blood to a satellite fridge

**Document Owner(s):** Transfusion Safety  
**Department:** Transfusion Medicine  
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**Performed By:** Procedure Room and ECLS staff  
**Other Roles Involved:** Transfusion Medicine Laboratory

**Process Summary:** Instructions for returning blood to a satellite fridge.  
**Objective:** Ensure that staff follows the correct steps for returning blood to a satellite fridge.

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| 1   | Look for the time that the blood was removed from the satellite fridge, on the satellite fridge tag.  
   - If the blood is out of the satellite fridge **for less than** 30 minutes, it is safe to return the blood to the satellite fridge, go to step 2.  
   - **If** the blood is out of the satellite fridge for **greater than** 30 minutes **DO NOT** return the blood to the satellite fridge. **Return to TML immediately. Go to step 6.** | Blood that has been out of temperature controlled storage for greater than 30 minutes cannot be returned to a satellite fridge. | Satellite fridge tag. |
| 2   | Write the time that the blood was returned to the satellite fridge in the “returned to satellite fridge” section of the satellite fridge tag. | TML must have a record of the total time all components are out of temperature controlled storage. | Satellite fridge tag. |
| 3   | Check the transfusion record or component label to determine the component type.  
   **Refer** to table 1 to check the correct storage for the blood component.  
   **Do not** remove the product tag from the blood component bag.  
   **Do not** separate the transfusion record from the blood component.  
   **Do not** discard the zip lock bag; the blood component should be stored in zip lock bag.  
   **NEVER** put platelets in the satellite blood refrigerators. | **Table 1**  
| Component | Correct Storage |  
| RBC   | Satellite fridge |  
| Plasma | Satellite fridge |  
| Platelets | Room Temperature |  
|     | |  
|     | | **•** Not all components are stored in satellite fridges.  
|     | | **•** The product tag must remain attached to the blood component until the transfusion is complete.  
|     | | **•** To avoid errors in patient and component identification.  
|     | | **•** Platelets are stored at room temperature. |
|   | Place the blood component(s):  
|   |   • for each patient on a separate shelf; and  
|   |   • so that the patient identifiers on the  
|   |   transfusion record are visible  
|   | ▶ Store the component in the zip lock bag.  
|   | ▶ Do not pile multiple blood components on  
|   |   top of each other on the same shelf.  
|   |   • Patient safety.  
|   |   • To avoid errors in patient and component  
|   |   identification.  
|   |   • To make it easier to locate blood  
|   |   components for individual patients.  
|   | ▶ Click here to watch a short video.  
| 4 | If it is not possible to allocate a separate shelf  
|   |   per patient, then place the blood component(s);  
|   |   • for individual patients on different sides of the  
|   |   shelf, and  
|   |   • so that the patient identifiers on the  
|   |   transfusion record are visible  
|   | ▶ Store the component in the zip lock bag.  
|   | ▶ Do not pile multiple blood components on  
|   |   top of each other on the same shelf.  
|   |   • Patient safety.  
|   |   • To avoid errors in patient and component  
|   |   identification.  
|   |   • To make it easier to locate blood  
|   |   components for individual patients.  
|   |   • Cross-References:  
|   |   Transfusion Medicine Laboratory standard operating procedures  
|   |   References  
| 5 | Returning blood to TML:  
|   |   • Return the blood to TML immediately.  
|   |   • Arrange for the return to the blood via porter services or return in person.  
|   |   • Contact TML to inform them why you are returning the blood.  
|   |   Blood that has been out of temperature controlled storage for greater than 30 minutes cannot be returned to a satellite fridge.  
| 6 | Version History  
|   |   DATE  
|   |   DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE  
|   |   ACTION TAKEN  
| 07-Jun-2019 | C-0506-16-60223 Standard Work: Return blood to a satellite fridge | Approved at: Transfusion Medicine  

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