## Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Plasma Protein Products

### Applicable to all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Visual Appearance/Acceptability Criteria</th>
<th>Action/Reporting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expiry dates stickers/labels</td>
<td>Label must be present and in date.</td>
<td>Expired products or missing labels must be returned to blood bank. Contact transfusion service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segments</td>
<td>Sufficient segments to complete testing present and intact.</td>
<td>Missing segments must be reported to transfusion service. Product returned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing/external covers</td>
<td>Intact and dry, no breaks or leaks. Any damage to external packaging is unacceptable for transfusion.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service, return product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port covers</td>
<td>Intact. Exception: if product has been modified at least one port must be intact. Not acceptable if loose or open.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service, return product.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Red Blood Cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Visual Appearance</th>
<th>Acceptability Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hemolysis</td>
<td>Loss of intact red cells results in bright cherry red color. Purple of black color is abnormal. Some degree of hemolysis is acceptable.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service for darker color. Quarantine product if applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color of red cells is different than in segments</td>
<td>The color of red cells in blood bag and in segments should be similar.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service for differences in color. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipemia</td>
<td>Whitish to lighter shade of red with increased opacity. Acceptable to transfuse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air bubbles</td>
<td>Excessive and unusual air bubbles may indicate bacterial contamination.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clots/Fibrin strands</td>
<td>Small to large red or purple masses that do not dissipate with mixing may indicate bacterial contamination.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold agglutinins</td>
<td>Large red cell masses that do not dissipate with mixing.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular aggregates</td>
<td>White and opaque masses that do not dissipate with mixing.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White particulate matter</td>
<td>Non cellular lipid-rich material that appears white in color and variable in shape from flattened specks to a greasy film. It may dissipate with a change in temperature and is a normal constituent of blood.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Manitoba Transfusion Best Practice Resource Manual

### Appendix 12 Visual Inspection of Blood Components and Plasma Protein Products

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Platelets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red cell contamination on Platelets</td>
<td>Only applicable to the Rh negative females less than 45 years of age when transfusing Rh positive platelets to an Rh negative recipient.</td>
<td>TM Medical Director approval is needed. Document consult in the appropriate blood bank log.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasma color is bright red</td>
<td>Some degree of hemolysis is acceptable. Bright red color indicates significant hemolysis.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discolored plasma</td>
<td>Greyish murky color, purple or brown may indicate bacterial contamination. Color variations may occur due to icterus (yellow), oral contraceptive use (green), vitamin A or consumption of carrots (orange). These are acceptable for transfusion.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plasma Protein Products</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product appears cloudy</td>
<td>Cloudiness may indicate bacterial contamination or presence of particulate matter.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air bubbles</td>
<td>Excessive and unusual air bubbles may indicate bacterial contamination.</td>
<td>Contact transfusion service. Quarantine product.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>