



Title:

SNBTS POLICY ON THAWED FFP

Statement of Policy:

Where required, SNBTS Blood Banks will thaw and hold FFP at 4°C for up to 24 prior to use and up to 120 hours where the FFP is used in major haemorrhage only.

This will provide a better service for clinicians and patients as the laboratory staff will be able to issue thawed FFP immediately it is requested. This improves service delivery.

During a major haemorrhage clinicians will receive thawed FFP with the red cells and platelets, which will allow the clinical need to be met in a more timely manner.

Key Change From Previous Revision:

Addition of 5-day (120 hours) post-thaw shelf life at 4°C \pm 2°C for pre-thawed FFP to be used in major haemorrhage only.

Policy Agreement	CGSC: 6 th June 2017	PSOG: 30 th May 2017
Supersedes Policy Ref:	NATP CLIN 09 016 02	
Date Of Implementation:	1 st August 2017	



Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Policy Record
Ref: NATP CLIN 016 03
Cat: Clinical



There is a delay of around 30 - 45 minutes between fresh frozen plasma (FFP) being ordered and the product being available at the clinical arena. Within the context of major haemorrhage this could be suboptimal as the patient's clinical condition often evolves rapidly and may change significantly by the time the FFP is available. The spread of massive transfusion protocols and near patient testing in Surgical Theatres, ITU and Accident & Emergency units has led to much more rapid identification of coagulation abnormalities and more aggressive intervention.

In the past, SNBTS have required that FFP is used within 4 hours of thawing.

The UK Red Book Guidelines 8th Edition 2013 Section 7.15.3, have recently been updated to specify:

- Once thawed, the component must not be refrozen and should be transfused as soon as possible. Transfusion of FFP should be completed within 4 hours of issue out of a controlled temperature environment.
- Pre-thawed FFP that is out of a controlled temperature environment ($4 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$), can be accepted back into temperature controlled storage if this occurs on one occasion only of less than 30 minutes.
- The component may be stored and should be used within 4 hours if maintained at $22 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ or up to a maximum of 120 hours if stored at $4 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$, but it should be borne in mind that extended post-thaw storage will result in a decline in the content of labile coagulation factors.
- For indications other than unexpected major haemorrhage, the component should be used within 24 hours of thawing.

Several hospitals within the UK stock the product in this form and a number of requests have been received from clinicians for it to be made available in some Scottish hospitals also. This policy will now enable SNBTS hospital blood banks with clear clinical need to hold a small stock of pre thawed FFP within the blood bank cold room stock.

SNBTS blood banks have the capability to hold pre-thawed FFP at appropriate stock levels where clinically indicated.

This will be used for emergency and elective requests (and therefore routinely turned over before expiry).

Reference:

Green, L., Cardigan, R., Beattie, C., Bolton-Maggs, P., Stanworth, S. J., Thachil, J., Kallis, Y. and Zahra, S. (2016), **Addendum to the BCSH Guidelines for the use of fresh-frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate and cryosupernatant, 2004**. Br J Haematol. Online <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjh.14163/abstract>