New Short Journey Transport Containers

Training Presentation
Design

• An outer fabric belt, not a full outer cover
• Printed with NHSBT logo in top right hand corner
• Contains a barcode window which will be used for site specific identification
• A label pocket at the top of the container
• A hard plastic ‘shoe’ to protect the bottom
• Stainless steel, tamper proof closing mechanism
• Ergonomically designed handles
Design

Container Front View
Showing closing mechanism, barcode window, TMS barcode and notice

Container Side View
Showing handle, lid, outer strap and corner lip for opening

Container Bottom View
Showing outer fabric belt, stacking insets and plastic protective shoe
Please note that some boxes in circulation may have the label shown opposite on them. These boxes can still be used by hospitals providing they are used as directed in the packing information provided. The label will not be on all short journey containers.
Temperature Control

Blue PCMs are used in the container to keep red blood cells at the correct temperature and are equilibrated for 72 hours.

Green PCMs are used in the container to keep platelets at the correct temperature and are equilibrated for 48 hours.
Labelling

- The new containers are all the same colour, therefore the colour will not indicate which blood component the box contains
- Hospitals will need to provide their own labelling if required
- NHSBT will provide sample component labels for use by hospitals if they require them
Journey Times

- The container has been validated between -5°C and +34°C ambient temperature.
- For Red Cells the journey time is 7 hours between these temperature limits.
- For Platelets, the journey time is 8 hours between these temperature limits.
- A datasheet reflecting this information is available on the Hospitals & Science website.
Container Weight

- Fully loaded with 6 units of red cells + PCMs, the weight is approximately 8 kg
- Fully loaded with 6 units of platelets + PCMs, the weight is approximately 8 kg
Use Of Phase Change Materials (PCMs)

• When pre-conditioning, air gaps of at least 1.5 cm/1 inch must be left between each PCM to ensure good air flow and equal preconditioning of each piece.

• The use of foam matting during storage will aid this process.

• The foam can be cut to fit neatly into temperature controlled areas or refrigerators if space is restricted.
Use Of Phase Change Materials (PCMs)

Red Blood Cell Components - Blue PCMs

- Four PCMs to be used
- Two PCM’s at the bottom, laid side by side
- Two PCM’s at the top, laid side by side by side
- Components can be laid flat between the PCMs
- Place paper towel/roll-sheet/bubble wrap or paper towel/bubble wrap cushions around the units and PCMs and secure to ensure they do not move during transportation
Use Of Phase Change Materials (PCMs)

Platelet Components – Green PCMs

- Four PCMs to be used
- Two PCM’s at the bottom, laid side by side
- Two PCMs at the top, laid side by side
- Components can be laid flat between the PCMs
- Place paper towel/roll/sheet/bubble wrap or paper towel/bubble wrap cushions around the units and PCMs and secure to ensure they do not move during transportation.
Looking after the Containers  

- The containers must be handled with care at all times, even when empty.
- They must not be thrown.
- They must be held upright.
- They must be checked for damage before use. **Damaged containers must be labelled and returned to your local Hospital Services Department**.
- The containers must not be exposed to extremes of heat or cold when being stored.
Looking for Damage

- Light scratches or surface scuffs will not affect the integrity of the container.
- Serious damage such as holes or broken lids can affect the thermal performance of the container and it should not be used.

Please Check

- The external and internal walls
- The lid
- The fabric outer

If in doubt, check with a senior member of NHSBT staff.
Damage

Important

All damaged containers must be labelled and returned to NHSBT for inspection and repair or removal from the asset register if necessary.
Looking after the PCM’s

• The PCM’s must be handled with care at all times.
• They must not be thrown
• They must be checked for damage before use.
• Damaged PCM’s do not need to be returned to NHSBT. These can be disposed of on site.
• Refer to Instructions for Maintenance and Cleaning of Blood Transport Boxes.
Using the Container
Opening the Closing Mechanism

Lift the lever at the bottom of the stainless steel closing mechanism

Remove the top loop from the hook on the flap of the fabric outer
Securing the Container

- Close the outer flap
- Place the large top loop on the closing mechanism over the hook on the outer flap
- Push the lever at the bottom towards the container
- Insert a cable tie, with the box label attached, into the small loop on the mechanism and secure to seal the container
- This will provide evidence of tampering
Using the Container
Opening the Lid

Lift the flap on the fabric outer to expose the container lid and corner lip. Place fingers under the corner lip whilst firmly holding the container. Gently pull the container lid until it releases from the inner container.
Carrying and Loading

The container must:
- Be carried using both handles
- Be held upright
- The lid and label wallet must be at the top
- The plastic shoe at the bottom
- Be handled with care both when empty & full
- Must be used with a trolley when handling more than one container

The container must not:
- Be thrown
- Be stacked more than five high
Transportation

The container must:
- Be loaded carefully on to a vehicle
- Secured or stacked securely within the vehicle
- Covered with a waterproof cover or container in a pannier or box on the back of a motorcycle
- Secured by the seatbelt if transported in a car seat
- Secured if transported in the rear luggage compartment
- Must be used with a trolley when handling more than one container

The container must not:
- Be thrown onto or off a vehicle
Handling

• The containers must be handled as instructed in the User Operations Manual

• Mishandling of the containers will cause damage to either the container and, more importantly, the products inside

• Damaged containers lose thermal performance and can have an adverse affect on the blood components during transportation
Cleaning

If the container becomes soiled or dirty:

- Refer to cleaning instructions in the Use Manual
- Cleaners with a high corrosive agent must not be used
- Cleaning must be carried out with a soft sponge or cloth
- Scraping implements must not be used to remove stickers
- Do not write on the inner or outer bag
User Manual

• There is a User Operations Manual available

• Please use this for reference when using the container