

**New York State Council on Human Blood and Transfusion Services**

# **GUIDELINES FOR VISUAL INSPECTION**

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New York State Council on Human Blood and Transfusion Services  
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**NEW YORK STATE  
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**GUIDELINES FOR VISUAL INSPECTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

Section 58-2.6 (g) of 10 NYCRR requires that whole blood and red cell components be visually inspected during storage and upon issuance.

- The purpose of this rule is to identify physical changes in the blood component such as leakage and bacterial contamination, i.e., discoloration of the component. This can be accomplished via a visual scan of the blood components in the refrigerator and does not necessitate additional individual handling of the products.
- Inventory of blood components is happening on a regular basis and visual inspection is occurring naturally during this review.
- Laboratories must include information about visual inspection into their existing standard operating procedures for routine monitoring (e.g., inventory or temperature monitoring) of blood components.
- The frequency of visual inspection must be determined by the blood bank director and incorporated into the standard operating procedures.
- Explicit documentation of visual inspection is not required; however, this step may be added to existing checklists, e.g. temperature checks, etc. Blood bank employees must be prepared to attest that visual inspection is performed as part of routine monitoring.