

Platelet Bag Handling Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

All platelet bags are designed to have high gas (O₂ and CO₂) permeability. These materials are susceptible to damage caused by friction, pinching, excessive pressure, heat exposure or other mechanical stresses. Therefore, the bags must be handled with care and the environment should be kept clean to minimize the risk of damage and contamination.

These recommendations provide best practices in the care and handling in the hospital environments.



Decontamination of Surfaces / Workspaces / Storage Areas:

- Conduct daily cleaning and disinfection on work surfaces that may be contaminated with blood.
- Disinfect surfaces or equipment in the event of a leak or spill as soon as feasible after discovery.
- Determine the appropriate frequency of cleaning and disinfecting based on equipment manufacturer's directions.



Inspection of Surfaces / Workspaces / Storage Areas:

- Areas should be free of objects that could result in punctures or abrasions.
- Routinely check agitator drawers for any damage to the surfaces or interfaces for opening and closing the drawer.



General Product Handling:

- Handle sets and platelets with care.
- Ensure manipulation does not cause pinching, friction or excessive pressure.
- Avoid stacking multiple platelet bags on top of each other, which can lead to risk of one or more platelet bags falling or create pressure points with rigid objects (e.g., clamps, tie tags).
- Inspect the platelet bags for any scrapes or leaks throughout the process. If a leak is detected follow your institutional SOPs for notification protocols and report to your blood provider.



Platelet Bag Agitation:

- Place platelet bags with ports flat against the agitator drawer with the label up and the platelet bags away from agitator drawer/slide interface.
 - Portrait position may minimize platelet bag movement.
 - Label up minimizes platelet bag handling.
 - Keep platelet bags away from the interface between the drawer and the slide to minimize potential damage.
- Position platelet bags on agitator drawer so that they are not overlapping with the shelf

or other containers.

- Position platelet bags so that they are fully within the drawer.



Centrifugation:

- Only centrifuge platelets in platelet bags designed for centrifugation.



Pneumatic Tube Transport System:

- Validate use of the pneumatic tube system.
- Ensure the carrier is well padded and airtight.
- Place platelet bag inside sealed transport bag or pouch before placing in the carrier.
- Ensure there are no pressure points on the platelet bag when placed in the tube.
- Ensure ports of the platelet bag are pointing away from the direction of travel.
- Minimize the number of times the platelet bag is transported via the pneumatic tube.
- If the platelet bag must be folded to fit within the tube, do not fold bag at the ports.



Packing for Shipment:

- Inspect the platelet bags for any scrapes or leaks. If a leak is detected follow your institutional SOPs for notification protocols and report to your blood provider.
- Remove clamps from platelet bags prior to packing.
- Pack platelet bags to avoid friction or pressure points.
 - Place tie tags flat against the container and near the end flap.
 - Flat placement within the shipping container is preferred with ports alternating with the stack.
 - If the platelet bag must be folded to fit within the shipping container, fold at the bottom not at the ports.
- Avoid excessive compression on contents when packing the shipping container by not packing more than 4 platelet bags in one shipping container.

Note: These recommendations represent general best practices and should be applied at the facility's discretion. Please follow your institutional SOPs or speak with your management for clarification.