

BloodNotes

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Cleaning or wiping of the external surfaces of blood component bags

Canadian Blood Services received several questions from our hospital customers asking how the exterior surfaces of our blood component bags and their labels could be cleaned or wiped if a unit was issued to a patient's room and then returned to the blood transfusion service. We were also asked about how our current shipping containers used for product shipments to our hospital customers could be cleaned or wiped, if a hospital customer decides that they want to do something more than the additional cleaning performed by Canadian Blood Services as described in customer letter [2020-16](#).

We contacted our blood bag and shipping container manufacturers, as well as the manufacturer of our end labels. The responses were shared in customer letter [2020-17](#).

The manufacturer's responses varied by container/blood bag/component type, so careful attention should be exercised if a hospital customer decides to clean or wipe the exterior surface.

Further, the manufacturers did not provide information beyond what is included in customer letter [2020-17](#). Information was not provided on the type or concentration of soap (if soap was recommended), the temperature of the water, or the type of wipe/cloth.

Canadian Blood Services does not have information regarding exterior cleansing of our previous shipping containers (e.g. J82 and E38 boxes) that were made available to support hospital redistribution programs.

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