(A) Policy Statement

OR staff will be aware of their role and respond appropriately should the blood refrigerator alarm activate.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To assure that blood and blood products will be maintained at proper temperature while being held in the OR blood refrigerator.

(C) Procedure

1. Daily checks of the OR blood refrigerator will be completed to assure that temperature is within normal range; this is the responsibility of blood bank personnel along with alarm calibration.

2. In the event the blood refrigerator temperature alarm activates, the following steps should be followed by OR personnel:
   a. Push reset to silence alarm.
   b. Check for obvious mechanical problem (e.g., door open, refrigerator unplugged, etc.).
   c. If problem is not corrected immediately:
      (1) Notify transfusion services (Ext. 5212).
      (2) Return blood products to transfusion services.
   d. When refrigerator returns to normal operating temperature (1 - 6 degrees C):
      (1) Reset alarm (if switch on green, push to red; if on red, push to green).

3. In the event of a power failure:
   a. If the power supply should fail, the audible alarm will sound. The power should convert to the auxiliary supply almost immediately.
      (1) Check to see that the compressor is on.
      (2) Check temperature monitor to see that the power indicator light is on.
   b. If the emergency power fails, call transfusion services. Blood products should be returned to transfusion services.
It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.