



e-*Network Forum*

CALIFORNIA BLOOD BANK SOCIETY

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Methods for Warming Blood Products

A transfusion medicine physician in Canada recently became medical director of a hospital transfusion medicine and hematology service. Since starting his new job, he discovered that some areas within the hospital **warm up blood products in the sink**, rather than using formal blood-warming equipment. Apparently there is only one blood-warmer for the entire hospital, and that piece of equipment is located in the operating room. The inquiring physician is concerned that warming blood in a sink may not be the most prudent of practices, and he is asking for input from colleagues regarding the safety of this local practice. He intends to discuss other methods of blood warming with the hospital administration, and he would appreciate any input that colleagues of the e-*Network Forum* can provide.

Editor's NOTE: Colleagues are referred to the following resources for further information on this issue:

- [FDA guidelines for blood warming](#)
- [A previous e-*Network Forum* discussion](#) on this issue (Aug. 2001), which includes examples of community practice.

Please submit comments to the [e-*Network Forum*](#).

[Ira A. Shulman, MD](#)
CBBS e-*Network Forum* Editor & Moderator



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Posted: December 24, 2003

Addenda:

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