Discard Guidance

How is a discard on the Hemovigilance Monthly Denominator Form defined?

Discards are defined as all units that have been directly disposed of by your facility. This includes all outdated/expired units, improperly stored units, and units removed from inventory and not transfused for any other reason.

How is "disposed of" defined?

Disposed of should mean removed from inventory, placed into biological waste, and therefore not transfused by your facility.

What are some reasons to discard a unit?

Discarded units may be disposed of because they are outdated/expired, were improperly stored, the bag or container containing the unit broke, the unit was mishandled, or any similar occurrence. These are blood products you would not want to transfuse into a patient.

Do discards include units transfused by your facility?

No. Discards only include those units directly disposed of by your facility.

Do discards include units transferred *out of* your facility?

No. Discards only include those units directly disposed of by your facility.

Do discards include units transferred *into* your facility?

Yes. If a unit is transferred into your facility and then directly discarded by your facility, it should count as a discard. It does not matter if a unit was collected by your facility.

Do discards include units collected at a hospital-based collection center?

Yes. If a unit is included in your facility's available inventory (e.g., a unit is processed and tested, and moved from your collection area to your blood bank) but is not transfused and is directly disposed of by your facility then it is considered a discard.

Do units that are made into aliquots count as discarded units?

No, since those units were still used by your facility for the purpose of making aliquots.

But what if there is some residual blood component discarded from the original unit when making the aliquots. Should that be counted as a discard?

No, since the majority of the unit was made into aliquots and not disposed.

Do aliquots that are disposed of count as discarded units?

Yes, if the aliquot is disposed of directly by your facility, it should be counted as a discard.