

# Short Journey Va-q-Tec Containers (SJC) for Hospital Use- FAQ's

- 1) How are the phase change material (PCM) acclimatised for use?  
When pre-conditioning, air gaps of at least 1.5 cm/1 inch must be left between each PCM to ensure good air flow and equal preconditioning of each piece. The use of foam matting during storage will aid this process. The matting can be cut to size to fit in refrigerators or small temperature controlled areas when space is restricted. Full details are in the user guide and presentation supplied.
- 2) Will NHSBT supply the foam matting?  
No, hospitals will be provided with catalogue details and an order form to make their own purchase from the supplier.
- 3) Will NHSBT provide validation information?  
Yes. A detailed close out report of the validation process will be available on the Hospitals & Science website. There is also a datasheet will be provided which will include the capacity and transportation time limits for the transport boxes.
- 4) If hospitals send containers outside the trust, how will they be returned back to the originating hospital?  
If the receiving hospital currently has deliveries from NHSBT, the boxes will be collected and returned back to the local Hospital Services Department and returned into the NHSBT fleet, as is current practice. Hospitals may wish to develop their own returns system with other trusts or, alternatively, remove another box from their routine NHSBT delivery to top up their stock back to the agreed level. The transport box must be put out for the NHSBT transport driver to collect from the receiving hospital to ensure that it does not get lost and is returned back into circulation. If the receiving hospital does not receive deliveries from NHSBT, they may call their local Hospital Services Department who will arrange with the Transport Department for a NHSBT driver to pick up the containers.
- 5) Will the containers have a label saying "Return to xx hospital"-this will help identify those containers sent outside trust?  
No. As stated, hospitals may wish to develop their own returns system with other trusts and this may mean that their own label can be used. Containers will be identified to NHSBT by the blood centre site code sticker and will be returned to the correct Hospital Services Department, when they are received back into NHSBT, via the internal transport system. Hospitals can insert a label into the outer pouch, indicating return to xxx hospital, however, it is requested that hospitals **do not** write on either the actual container itself or on the outer cover.
- 6) Will NHSBT driver collect the empty inter-hospital containers, and transport them back to the originating hospital?  
No. In the first instance, containers will be returned back to the local Hospital Services Department. Hospitals may wish to remove another box from their routine NHSBT delivery or, if this is not possible, may request containers from their local Hospital Services Department to top up to the agreed stock level. These will be sent out at a time convenient with NHSBT and when transport is available.

- 7) Is there a risk of NHSBT drivers bringing back hospitals own stock with rest of the empty containers?  
Yes. Hospitals need a dedicated area for storage for containers intended for internal use. If this happens, however, hospitals may replenish their stock as described above.
- 8) Will the containers be tracked by NHSBT?  
Yes. The containers will be tracked through the asset management tracking system. The hospital will be allocated a number of boxes as requested by them. This amount will be noted against the hospital. A monthly tracking report will enable NHSBT to account for the amount of containers at a hospital at any one time.
- 9) Will the PCM's have NHSBT logo on it which may give the impression that PCM's were pre-conditioned by NHSBT?  
PCM's will have the NHSBT logo and will remain as the property of NHSBT. Hospitals need to be aware that NHSBT does not take responsibility for items not packed by the service.
- 10) How should damaged boxes/PCM's be dealt with. Should they be returned to NHSBT?  
Yes - Damaged boxes should be returned with a tag/note indicating the damage and its position on the container to help with inspection and repair. Please do not return damaged boxes without a label as they may be missed on return and could be inadvertently returned into the supply chain. If the container needs to be discarded, it will still need to be sent back to NHSBT for removal from the asset register. If it is not returned, a container will remain outstanding for your hospital.  
No - PCM's can be disposed of by the hospital.
- 11) Will hospitals be returning back Clinimed boxes for disposal by NHSBT?  
No. Hospitals need to destroy any Clinimed boxes that they have at their site. Hospitals will be supplied with guidance notes on how to do this. NHSBT drivers will be informed not to pick up Clinimed boxes from hospitals and return them to NHSBT.
- 12) Some boxes are labelled 'Property of NHSBT Validated only when packed by NHSBT' can hospitals use these?  
Yes – The label will not be removed from older stocks of the boxes as it may cause damage to the outer cover. However, new stocks of these boxes will not have this label. As long as the containers are packed and used as directed in the information provided by NHSBT, they are safe to use.