

**Supplementary Material: Box.** Formulae used for calculation of various study parameters for individual RCC units

- Volume of RCC (ml)  
= [weight of RCC (g) – weight of empty bag<sup>#</sup> (g)]/specific gravity<sup>§</sup>  
<sup>#</sup> weight of empty bag is 35 g for RCC<sub>350</sub> and 45 g for RCC<sub>450</sub>;  
<sup>§</sup> specific gravity is taken as 1.09.

- Hb content (g/unit)  
= [Hb (g/dL) × Volume of RCC (ml)]/100

- WBC content (cells/unit)  
= [WBC count (/mm<sup>3</sup>) × Volume of RCC (ml)] × 1000

RCC units within shelf-life with a storage period of more than seven days were randomly selected from the inventory for estimation of percentage haemolysis, in addition to routine QC parameters.

- Percentage haemolysis (%)  
= [(100–Hct) × plasma Hb (g/dL)]/Hb concentration (g/dL)

Note: RCC units within shelf-life with a storage period of more than seven days were randomly selected from the inventory for estimation of percentage haemolysis, in addition to routine QC parameters.

RCC, red cell concentrate; Hb, haemoglobin; WBC, white blood cell; QC, quality control