

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WARNING: It is important to note that deviating from the manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU) constitutes off-label administration, and the provider assumes all clinical risk.

1. *Can you run Dried Plasma (DP) through standard blood tubing?*
Yes. It is highly recommended to use the reconstitution and administration tubing supplied directly in the product kit. However, if the kit's tubing is lost or unavailable, you can use a standard vented blood transfusion set with a standard blood filter.
2. *What about used blood tubing?*
Acceptable for sequential units of DP and likely other blood products. It appears safe to administer DP after other blood products that are compatible with normal blood tubing; however, it is recommended to switch blood tubing after 4 units or when the filter becomes clogged, whichever comes first. Additionally, providers must remain cautious of contamination when switching out blood products.
3. *How fragile are the glass bottles?*
The bottles are relatively robust, but their packaging is not. The glass bottles themselves are solid and designed to withstand normal handling, but the standard cardboard boxes they are shipped in provide very little protection against rugged field conditions.
4. *How do you safely pack a set in a rucksack?*
Protect the glass from impact. Wrap the glass bottles in soft materials (such as spare clothing or bubble wrap) within your rucksack. Some units also utilize custom 3D-printed rigid cases to prevent breakage during tactical movement.
5. *Can you reconstitute it with saline or LR (so you don't have to carry separate sterile water)? If so, what is the minimum volume?*
No. You must only reconstitute dried plasma using sterile water. It is acceptable to use the same volume (recommended in the respective kit) of sterile water, should the supplied sterile water be lost or damaged.
6. *What meds are not compatible with it?*
Do not run any medications simultaneously through the same line. Just like standard blood products, co-administration of medications is not recommended. Calcium-containing solutions must absolutely be avoided in the same line to prevent clotting. If separate IV access is unavailable, flush the line thoroughly before and after pushing medications sequentially.
7. *Can you run blood through the included tubing?*
Yes. The tubing included in the kit functions similarly to standard blood tubing, though the filter will eventually clog over time or after multiple units of whole blood/RBCs.
8. *What is the average infusion time via a peripheral IV?*
Typically 3 to 5 minutes. While gravity flow through large-bore IVs (14G or 16G) can take as little as 60 to 120 seconds, a standard gravity infusion takes about 3 to 5 minutes.
9. *Can you run it via IO?*
Yes. Dried plasma can be administered via intraosseous (IO) access if rapid intravenous access cannot be established, though IV access remains the preferred route.
10. *How long is it good for after reconstitution?*
8 hours. Once reconstituted, the product must be administered within 8 hours if kept at room temperature. If not used within this window, it must be discarded.
11. *Can you transfer it into a sterile bag after reconstitution?*
No. Transferring the reconstituted product to a plastic bag is highly discouraged. It introduces unnecessary contamination risks, presents potential plastic/chemical incompatibilities, and still requires a filtered line for administration.
12. *Can you use a syringe push/pull to infuse it faster or preload it into large syringes?*
No. Using a syringe push/pull technique or preloading the plasma into large syringes causes excessive bubbling, foaming, and protein denaturation. It does not offer a clinical advantage over maintaining a patent IV line and elevating the bottle for gravity flow.
13. *Can it be run through a fluid warmer?*
Yes. It can be run through standard operational fluid warmers (such as a Buddy Lite). However, because reconstituted dried plasma is already at room temperature (unlike cold 6°C blood), the risk of hypothermia is much lower, making warming primarily necessary during cold-weather operations.
14. *Can you heat up the sterile water for administration?*
Yes, but only to room or body temperature with strict limitations. NEVER use a microwave, boiling water, vehicle heaters, or other uncontrolled heat sources. You may warm the sterile water to room or body temperature (ideally using passive warming, such as keeping the sterile water close to your body inside your uniform, or using approved, controlled fluid warming devices) before reconstitution. However, you must absolutely avoid excessive heat. Using a microwave or high-heat source will denature the essential clotting proteins.
15. *How do I order this for my unit? Through the blood bank or just like a medication?*
Ordering pathways depend on the product and your Service branch:
 - **For OctaplasLG (under EUA):** Contact your Joint Blood Program Office (JBPO) or the Armed Services Blood Program Division (ASBPD).
 - **For French Freeze-Dried Plasma (FrFDP):** Contact your SOCOM Medical Logistics (MEDLOG) manager or the Office of Regulated Activities (ORA).