



## Global Consultation on Haemovigilance

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Jointly organized by WHO HQ/Geneva, Sharjah Blood Transfusion and Research Center and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in collaboration with the International Haemovigilance Network and the International Society of Blood Transfusion

### Recommendations

#### A. Hospital/Institutional level

**Hospital administrators and clinical staff should:**

1. Implement clinical guidelines on transfusion of blood and blood products based on national standards, including:
  - positive identification of patients prior to transfusion
  - transfusion triggers
  - standard blood ordering schedules
  - appropriate documentation of the transfusion process
  - blood utilization review
  - audit of clinical transfusion practice
  - traceability requirements
2. Establish policies and procedures for all steps in blood transfusion chain including those for haemovigilance. These should be:
  - based on local, national or international standards
  - non-punitive
  - reviewed on regular basis
3. Define quality indicators as measures of clinical practice and traceability including confirmation of transfusion; and collect and analyse the indicators data on regular basis for quality improvement
4. Develop mechanisms of reporting of adverse transfusion events (reactions and incidents), including
  - adverse transfusion reaction form and incident reporting form
  - protocol for further investigations of transfusion reactions
  - clear roles and responsibilities for reporting and follow up
  - regular review of adverse reactions and incidents by the hospital transfusion committee (HTC)

5. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to establish an effective haemovigilance system at hospital level
6. Put in place mechanisms for providing training and education on haemovigilance to all staff involved in the transfusion chain
7. Establish and activate and maintain hospital transfusion committees
8. Designate or appoint Transfusion Nurses or Haemovigilance Officers in hospitals to follow up on all reports of adverse transfusion events, to report to HTC and to the National Haemovigilance Office, where applicable.

## **B. National level**

**Ministries of Health and state/local health authorities** should:

1. Recognize that haemovigilance is essential for quality and safety of blood donation and transfusion
2. Enshrine surveillance of the entire transfusion chain in the national blood policy
3. Set up and maintain a national haemovigilance system where blood collection and blood administration are performed, covering the entire transfusion chain including donors and recipients, processes and products
4. Develop strategic plans to set up and maintain a haemovigilance system which evolves in a stepwise manner from basic to complex
5. Provide effective leadership, direction and governance for the development of a functioning national haemovigilance system
6. Establish mechanisms for coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders (institutions and organizations) involved in the transfusion chain
7. Set up an efficient organizational structure for surveillance of the entire transfusion chain (donors and recipient, products and processes)
8. Advocate, guarantee and assure for a non-punitive environment while developing the system
9. Provide necessary resources both financial and human for effective implementation of the haemovigilance system
10. Put in place methods and channels for data collection, monitoring, analysis, reporting, evaluation and assessment, rapid alert and early warning
11. Ensure that haemovigilance links efficiently into policy formulation and quality management and results in improvement of quality and safety of the entire transfusion chain

12. Facilitate access to current medical and scientific expertise in the haemovigilance system.

**Blood transfusion services** - national, nationally coordinated or fragmented; and public, private or mixed services should:

1. Define roles and responsibilities of blood centres in relation to the haemovigilance system
2. Develop systems for reporting of adverse donor reactions and errors, including data collection, notification and reporting, and monitoring, analysis and evaluation
3. Establish mechanism for liaison with hospitals, including blood banks/blood transfusion laboratories, and HTC
4. Secure traceability (bidirectional tracking from donor to transfused patient and vice versa (vein to vein, using appropriate IT and communication tools)
5. Integrate haemovigilance into the quality management system.

### **c. International level**

**International organizations**, including World Health organization (WHO), International Haemovigilance Network (IHN) and International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), should:

1. Encourage and provide high level advocacy to the national health authorities to establish, implement, evaluate and improve haemovigilance systems
2. Develop global technical guidelines, training tools and materials, and standardized/uniform reporting tools and definitions for the establishment, implementation, evaluation and improvement of national haemovigilance systems
3. Provide technical support in:
  - identifying country needs for the development of national haemovigilance systems
  - assessing gaps and developing roadmaps for establishment of the system
  - facilitating the development and implementation of haemovigilance plans
4. Facilitate networking and support the establishment of partnerships or twinning mechanisms for haemovigilance within and between Member States
5. Organize educational and training activities in haemovigilance at regional/national level for capacity building to support the development of haemovigilance in countries
6. Strengthen/develop consultation and discussion mechanisms for global networking, sharing of ideas, best practices, data, information, experiences and reports of the countries on haemovigilance

7. Develop a web-board or electronic forum where countries can share publications and knowledge on haemovigilance
8. Disseminate information and website addresses and links on different haemovigilance systems
9. Encourage and support publication and communication of haemovigilance findings and reports at international and other forums (including WHO, IHN, ISBT and other international conferences and meetings)
10. Develop collaborative partnerships among international organizations working on haemovigilance.