



# WHO Online Training Program on the concept and implementation of Haemovigilance for the Healthcare providers engaged in blood transfusion services in the SEAR Countries

23rd November to 27th November 2020

In collaboration with

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research  
Mysuru, Karnataka, INDIA

**Pilot Online Training Program**

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## Background

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World Health Organization Blood Transfusion Safety program has been established to develop strategies for blood safety and promote them on a global, regional and national basis through advocacy and the provision of technical support to WHO Member States.

WHO recognizes the importance of haemovigilance to identify and prevent occurrence or recurrence of transfusion-related unwanted events, and to increase the safety, efficacy and efficiency of blood transfusion, covering all activities of the transfusion chain from donor to recipient.

In 2016, WHO published a guide to establishing a national haemovigilance system with particular focus on organizational models, prerequisites, planning & skill building for an effective national haemovigilance system to help the countries where haemovigilance is not already in place. This guide also emphasizes in detail the organization and coordination of haemovigilance activities, national management and use of haemovigilance data, monitoring, evaluation & outcomes of haemovigilance system and international haemovigilance activity.

Whilst national haemovigilance systems are well established in many countries, there is a lack of effective haemovigilance in many resource-limited settings, and implementation in such settings remains an important and challenging problem. In current Scenario (COVID 19), it is not possible for the experts to travel to countries and evaluate and train staff in haemovigilance. Mindful of this situation, it would be useful to produce recorded training modules which can be shared with the member states and educate them on this very important topic.

WHO aim is to support countries in capacity building where haemovigilance is not already in place/ or is in very primitive stage by establishing effective national systems for haemovigilance throughout the transfusion chain. This encompasses improving the blood donation process, storage, transfusion safety and quality, by collecting, collating, and analysing the data on adverse events / reactions due to blood donation, transfusion of blood and blood products at the national level. The information thus obtained is used to frame national policy guidelines to monitor and regulate the blood transfusion chain.

These guidelines are disseminated nationwide to the various stakeholders to build better and safer transfusion chain thus facilitating better healthcare delivery.

This initiative of WHO, in the present COVID - 19 scenario, is directed towards nurturing capacity building of safe blood transfusion practices through a unique mode of online training imparted through prerecorded videos, which in a short duration of time and with a wider regional and national reach to the healthcare providers, will help them in optimum utilization of their limited resources, capitalization of their inherent potential and capabilities.

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## **Aim**

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The aim of this program was to conduct online training program through prerecorded videos on the concept and implementation of Haemovigilance for the healthcare providers engaged in blood transfusion services in the countries of the SEAR for establishing / upgradation of National systems for haemovigilance throughout the transfusion chain to promote blood safety.

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## **Objectives**

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This online training program was conducted with the following objectives:

- Provide Technical guidance and training to conceptualize, Plan and implement a national haemovigilance system governance model.
- Capacity building in identifying the bedside transfusion events / reactions and donor reactions, their management and analysing the data being collected and collated under Haemovigilance system.
- Employ usage of IT in collating, collecting and analysing the data under national Haemovigilance system and disseminating the information to the various to the stakeholders

## Speakers

Domain experts from various Institutes of repute across the country delivered lectures on various topics as per the agenda virtually in the form of pre-recorded videos covering different aspects of “training on concept and implementation of Haemovigilance for the Healthcare providers engaged in blood transfusion services in the SEAR Countries” with a vision to enhance staff and faculty knowledge and skills of member countries about Haemovigilance and its implementation in their respective countries.

The prominent National / International Experts who were part of the training program:

Sl No	Organization	Representation
1	WHO SEARO	<b>Mr. Manoj Jhalani</b> Director-HSD, SEARO-WHO
2	WHO HQ	<b>Dr Yuyun MARYUNINGSIH</b> Team lead Blood, Blood Products and Products of Human Origin, WHO-HQ- Geneva
3	WHO SEARO	<b>Dr Aparna Singh Shah</b> Regional Advisor Blood , Blood Products and Products of Human Origin, SEARO-WHO
4	US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION	<b>Dr Jay Epstein</b> US Food and Drug Administration (Informal consultant to WHO)
5	JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH	<b>Dr Surinder Singh</b> Vice Chancellor JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka, India Former Drugs Controller General of India
6	SRILANKA	<b>Dr. Ananda Gunasekera</b> Secretary General, AATM, SRILANKA
7	BANGLADESH	<b>Dr. Md Ashadul Isalm</b> Professor in Department of Transfusion Medicine, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, BANGLADESH
8		<b>Dr. Sheikh Daud Adnan</b> Associate Professor, Transfusion Medicine Head of the Department, Blood Bank ,NICVD Additional Charge, Program Manager Hospital Service Management, DGHS,Mohakhali,Dhaka, Bangladesh

9	NEPAL	<b>Dr. Manita Rajkarnikar</b> Director, Central Blood Transfusion Service, NEPAL
10		<b>Dr. Rekha Manandhar</b> Co-ordinator of National Bureau for Blood Transfusion Services at National Public Health Laboratory, Kathmandu, NEPAL
11	INDONESIA	<b>Dr. Teguh Triyono</b> Chairman of the National Committee for Blood INDONESIA
12	INDIA	<b>Dr Neelam Marwaha</b> Former Professor & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
13		<b>Prof. Debasish Gupta</b> Prof. & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine SCTIMST Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
14		<b>Dr Manisha Shrivastava</b> All India Institute of Medical Science Bhopal, Saket Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
15		<b>Dr Akanksha Bisht</b> Scientist Grade-II Head of Haemovigilance program of India National Institute of Biologicals, New Delhi
16		<b>Prof Ravneet Kaur</b> Head, Dept of Transfusion Medicine, Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh
17		<b>Dr Jayashree Sharma</b> Professor and Head Department of Transfusion Medicine Seth G S Medical College and KEM Hospital Parel, Mumbai
18		<b>Dr. Sitalakshmi S</b> Department of Transfusion Medicine, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka
19		<b>Dr. Sangeeta Pathak</b> Head –Blood Bank MaxSuperspeciality Hospital,1-2 Press Enclave Road, Saket, New Delhi

20	INDIA	<b>Dr Pallavi P</b> Associate Professor Dept. of Transfusion Medicine JSS Hospital, Mysuru, Karnataka
21		<b>Dr. Shamee Shastry</b> Department of Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Udupi, Karnataka
22		<b>Dr Naveen Agnihotri</b> <b>Former</b> Senior Consultant and Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Nayati Medicity, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
23		<b>Dr Satyam Arora</b> Asst. Professor, Transfusion Medicine, Superspeciality Pediatric Hospital and PGTI, Sector-30, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
24		<b>Dr. Aseem Tiwari</b> Director, Transfusion Medicine, Medanta-The Medicity, Gurgaon, Haryana
25		<b>Dr C Shivaram</b> Manipal Hospitals, Transfusion Services 98 Rustom Bagh, HAL Airport Road, Bangalore, Karnataka
26		<b>Dr. Vikram Patil</b> Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health Science JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka

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## Activities Performed

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- Twenty-Six Pre-recorded video modules on Haemovigilance and safe blood transfusion practices were developed and completed in/within three months. Each pre-recorded video module, ranging from 12 minutes to 40 minutes duration (depending on the depth of the topic), was prepared by utilizing the services of the domain experts for the relevant topic identified from reputed institutions across the country. The video modules were majorly recorded in two media centers equipped with the requisite technological capabilities, identified at two different locations, one at JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, Karnataka and one at JSS Academy of Technical Education (JSS ATEN), Noida, where in the speakers recorded their assigned topics as per their convenience keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic situation to avoid unnecessary travel.

**Precautions taken:** During recording of video modules in media centers at two different locations, all precautions to prevent COVID-19 spread were taken. The recording studios were sanitized thoroughly and speakers along with all the staff involved followed all preventive measures including hand sanitization, wearing masks in the studios and followed proper social distancing throughout this activity.

- The team from JSS AHER coordinated, supervised and regulated the quality of recording sessions. The recorded videos were further processed by JSS AHER team to optimize the quality of the videos by incorporating additional features i.e. self-learning features with suitable animated learning material duly validated by the respective domain expert.
- Each pre-recorded presentation was accompanied by preparation of course material of each particular topic containing more elaborated information for ready reference of participants. The course material of all the twenty-six topics was prepared and is enclosed along with respective presentation slides.
- Subsequently, a well-structured five-day pilot online training program was conducted from 23-Nov-2020 to 27-Nov-2020 in which 05 member countries of SEARO participated.



## WHO SEAR Countries: Pilot Online Training Program for Haemovigilance.

### Participating countries of SEARO



This pilot online training program was conducted for five days from 23-Nov-2020 to 27-Nov-2020 virtually through display of pre-recorded video presentations via zoom conferencing in which a total of 240 participants registered from 05 member countries of SEARO i.e. Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives and Timor-Leste participated and represented graphically below:



Around 72 to 139 participants attended the program on various days with an average participation of 105 participants from all the 5 days.

- The training program started with inauguration session on 23-Nov-2020 with opening remarks from **Mr. Manoj Jhalani**, WHO SEARO-Director Health Systems and **Dr. Surinder Singh**, Vice Chancellor, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research followed by presentation from **Dr Jay Epstein, Director**, Office of Blood Research and Review, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), (Informal consultant to WHO) on WHO commitment to blood safety-Haemovigilance followed by **Dr. Maryuningsih Yunyun**, Team lead Blood, Blood Products and Products of Human Origin, WHO-HQ- Geneva, who apprised the participants about WHO action framework to advance universal access to safe blood and **Dr. Aparna Singh Shah** , Regional Adviser Blood Safety and Laboratory Technology, WHO SEARO who briefed the participants about blood transfusion services in SEAR and haemovigilance. This was followed by technical sessions which initiated from 24-Nov-2020.
- A total of 26 expert speakers which included 8 international speakers from 7 countries were involved in this training program. There were a total of 27 sessions and eight panel discussion & live interactions.

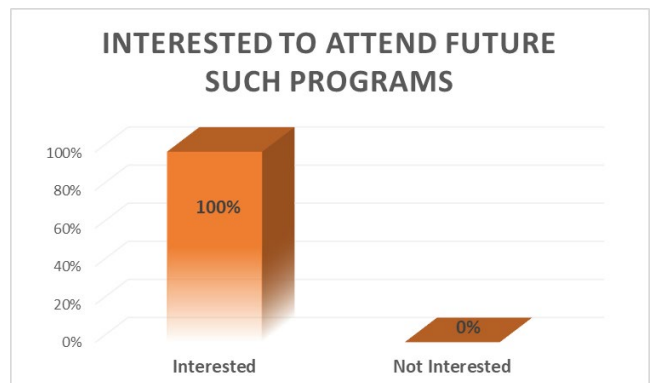
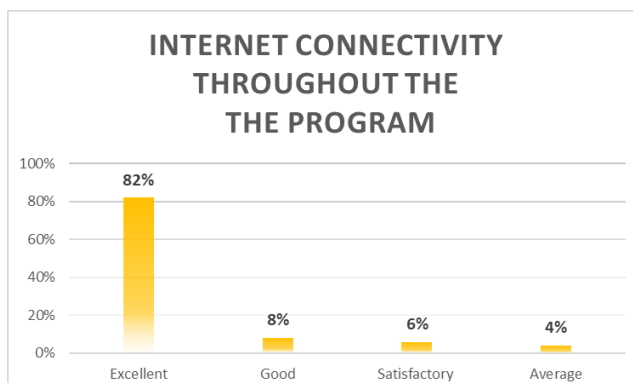
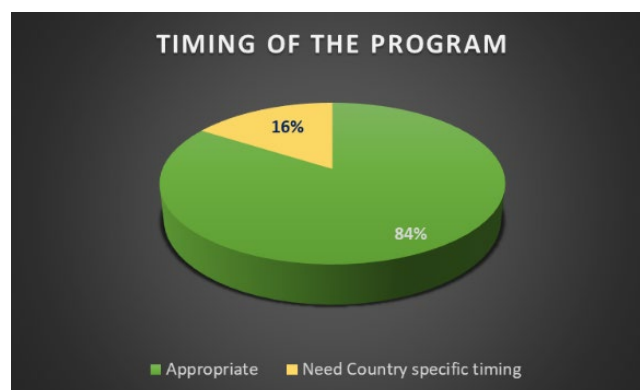
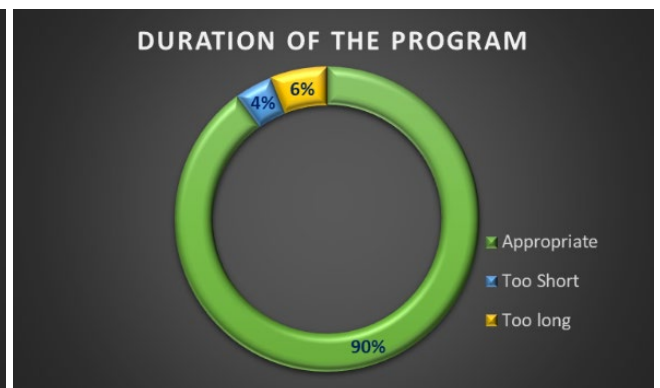


**WHO-SEAR Countries**  
Pilot Online Training Program for  
Haemovigilance

<b>26</b>	<b>Expert Speakers</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>International Speakers</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Panel Discussions &amp; Live Interactions</b>

- Each day of training consisted of scheduled beaming of the pre-recorded audio-visual presentations with two panel discussions for live interactions with the participants. The participants were allowed to raise any query anytime during the presentations via Q/A tab. The various questions raised by the participants were answered and discussed by the respective speakers during the live panel discussion sessions. The participants were also allowed a live interaction with the experts to express their view point about the training.

- Each day a five-minute feedback poll session from participants was conducted and poll results were being displayed at end of the day. The feedback poll results of each day are shown below:



- The training was successfully concluded on 27-Nov-2020 with closing remarks from **Dr. Aparna Singh Shah** and **Dr. Surinder Singh**.

A glance from the training program showing various resource persons and speakers



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## Collaborating Partners

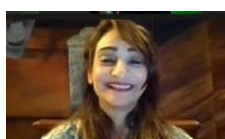
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- World Health Organization (WHO)
- JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka, India

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## Coordinators

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- **Dr. Aparna Singh Shah**  
Regional Advisor, WHO-SEARO



- **Dr. Surinder Singh**  
Vice-Chancellor, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka, India

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## Outcomes

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All the participating countries understood the need of haemovigilance in blood safety and showed their interest in development and implementation of Haemovigilance systems in their respective countries and expressed their gratitude for conducting this online training program in this pandemic situation as shown by feedback poll results. None of the participating countries has fully developed haemovigilance system hence the course material prepared and delivered during this training program will help the participant countries in initiation and implementation of haemovigilance in their respective countries for enhanced blood safety. The participating countries encouraged the conduct of such online programs in future as well.

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## Way Forward

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Collaborative Networking relationship between countries of SEAR by sharing knowledge and resources in promoting safe blood transfusion practices.

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## Impact: Blood safety in Pandemics

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As Blood and its safety is one of the primary public health need of paramount importance in healthcare system, so is the regular training of stakeholders of this domain. The increased need for safe blood in pandemics or other natural disasters plays a very critical role in healthcare system, hence in order to ensure that the safety of blood is not compromised during increased demand for blood, virtual trainings are one of the best approaches of preparedness and haemovigilance as one of the potential quality checks in blood transfusion services could play an essential role to prevent any breach in safety of blood. This online training program on concept and implementation of Haemovigilance would help the participating SEAR countries in development of proper Haemovigilance system and to utilize it as one of the potential tools in strengthening of blood transfusion services.

**Enclosures:**

1. Agenda of the program,
2. Presentation slides & Course Material
3. CVs of experts.

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