

NATIONAL BLOOD POLICY

Introduction

Blood safety is vital for the prevention and control of transfusion transmitted infections. Unfortunately, the blood transfusion service in the country lacks many vital resources like manpower, adequate infrastructure and financial base beside poor management of private agencies. There is a wide gap in quality of services, between various states and cities. The blood component production/availability and utilisation is extremely limited.

For quality, safety and efficacy of blood and blood products, well-equipped blood centres with adequate infrastructure and trained manpower is an essential requirement. Thus, a need for modification and change in the blood transfusion service has necessitated formulation of a National Blood Policy and development of a National Blood Programme. The supreme Court directive of May, 1996 has helped in phasing out unlicensed blood banks by May, 1997 and professional blood donors by December, 1997. Mandatory testing of blood for HIV along with Syphilis, Malaria Hepatitis B and C has helped in checking transmission of HIV virus through blood transfusion.