



**World Health
Organization**



International
Haemovigilance
Network



Global Consultation on Haemovigilance

20-22 November 2012, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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

Background

Haemovigilance is a continuous process of data collection and analysis of transfusion-related adverse events and reactions (AR/AE) in order to investigate their causes and outcomes, and prevent their occurrence or recurrence. A haemovigilance system is an integral part of quality management in a blood system and is required for the continual improvement of the quality and safety of blood products and the transfusion process. Haemovigilance is essential to identify and prevent the occurrence or recurrence of adverse reactions and unwanted events, and to increase the safety, efficacy and efficiency of blood transfusion. It covers all activities of the blood chain, vein-to-vein, from donor to recipient.

A system of haemovigilance is dependent on the traceability of blood and blood products from donors to recipients and vice versa (bi-directional tracking), the monitoring, investigation and reporting of transfusion-related adverse reactions and events and the rigorous management of information related to the transfusion process. Information generated through this system is key to introduce required amendments in transfusion policies, to change processes in blood services and transfusion practices in hospitals, to improve transfusion standards, to assist in the formulation of transfusion guidelines and to increase the safety and quality of the entire transfusion process.

The establishment of a haemovigilance system involves all relevant stakeholders and should be coordinated between the national blood programme under the ministry of health, blood services, hospital clinical units and transfusion laboratories, hospital transfusion committees, professional bodies, public health institutions, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders. It should include the identification, reporting, investigation and analysis of adverse reactions and events in recipients and blood donors as well as incidents in manufacturing processes and, eventually, errors and “near-misses”. Haemovigilance should be strongly linked to quality management, triggering corrective and preventive actions when required.

WHO Global Consultation on Haemovigilance

The WHO Blood Transfusion Safety programme in the Department for Health Systems Policies and Workforce, WHO headquarters (WHO/BTS), is convening the above-mentioned consultation in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 20-22 November 2012. This consultation is being jointly organized by WHO-HQ/Geneva, Sharjah Blood Transfusion and Research Center and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, also in collaboration with the International Haemovigilance Network and the International Society of Blood Transfusion. This three-day Global Consultation on Haemovigilance

will involve participants from developing and developed countries, including those with established systems (different models of haemovigilance systems will be highlighted) and those with plans to start haemovigilance.

A total of around 150 participants will be attending the consultation from 47 countries (Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Viet Nam) representing all regions of WHO. The participants will include senior policy makers from ministries of health, and representatives from key institutions, agencies and stakeholders in establishing haemovigilance systems - at national, regional or hospital level, e.g. blood services, public health institutions, hospitals, regulatory agencies and professional bodies.

Partners from key international organizations working in the area of haemovigilance will also be invited, including Africa Society for Blood Transfusion, Asia Pacific Blood Network, Arab Society of Blood Transfusion Services, International Society of Surgery, Latino-American Cooperative Group for Transfusion Medicine, Safe Blood for African Foundation, South Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine and Women and Health Alliance International.

The methodology of the consultation will include presentations, group discussions, and the identification of priorities for action and recommendations to different stakeholders. Broadly, four groups will be constituted for discussion on: 1) strategies for setting up or strengthening national haemovigilance systems based on appropriate models; 2) global mechanism/s for networking countries and organizations for sharing of data, information and experiences on haemovigilance; 3) a standardized definition and tools for global haemovigilance reporting and 4) future perspectives: scope of haemovigilance and beyond.

Objectives of the Consultation

1. Highlight the importance of national haemovigilance systems and international networking for global blood safety and availability.
2. Assess the nature and magnitude of current challenges and barriers to the implementation of haemovigilance systems, particularly in developing countries.
3. Provide a platform for countries to share experiences and learn lessons for developing national haemovigilance systems in a stepwise manner.
4. Define strategies for developing haemovigilance systems, including the harmonized reporting of transfusion-related adverse reactions and events, the collection, analysis and use of national data for continuous learning and improvement in the safety of blood donors, blood products and patients.
5. Building on existing international networks, discuss creation of global mechanism/s for networking countries and organizations to share data, information and experiences on haemovigilance; and to advocate and support the establishment of national haemovigilance systems; harmonize global data collection; organize joint activities; and function as a forum for dialogue, advice and information gathering for all key stakeholders.