



सत्यमेव जयते

संजीव कुमार, भा.प्र.से.

अपर सचिव एवं महानिदेशक, नाको

**SANJEEVA KUMAR, IAS**

Additional Secretary & Director General, NACO



भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
राष्ट्रीय एड्स नियंत्रण संगठन  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
National AIDS Control Organisation

**D.O. No: S-12016/19/2018-NACO(NBTC)**

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

Dear *Colleague*

Blood is an intrinsic requirement for health care and proper functioning of the health care delivery system. Government of India adopted the National Blood Policy in April 2002 which aims to develop a nationwide system to ensure easy access to adequate and safe and good quality blood supply.

As you are aware, blood, being considered a "drug", the requirements for the functioning and operation of a blood bank including mandatory testing provisions are prescribed in Schedule F Part XII-B of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 1945. Health, being a State subject, the primary responsibility of providing access for quality healthcare services including blood transfusion services lie with the respective State Government.

State Blood Transfusion Councils are set up in all States and UTs under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary (Health) and are required to implement activities for promotion of voluntary blood donation, enhance quality of transfusion services and monitor blood transfusion services. Support from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is available under the National AIDS Control Programme and National Health Mission to contribute towards strengthening the blood banks, but it is imperative that respective State Governments also allocate adequate resources for ease of access, availability, safety, quality and affordability of blood and blood components to the people.

I am writing this to convey that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had set up an Expert Working Group under chairpersonship of Special Director General Health Services to review and revise the norms for technical manpower in Blood Banks. This was in response to a complaint made to National Human Rights Commission by Shri Chetan Kothari in 2016. A copy of the complaint and response thereof dated are enclosed for your reference.

Accordingly, the Report on "**Review and Recommendations of Manpower Norms for Blood Banks**" was approved by the National Blood Transfusion Council, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Body of NBTC held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The salient points of the report are summarized below:

Contd...2

1. The Expert Working Group has recommended revisions for norms for technical manpower for Blood Banks in accordance to total blood collection, hours of operations and outdoor camp activities.
2. The Expert Working Group has recommended that every blood bank should have a counselor or social worker for the function of engagement with the blood donor and promotion of voluntary blood donation to perform tasks including motivation, counseling, recruitment, retention and referral.
3. In Blood Banks desirous of improving their Quality Management Systems, the Expert Working Group recommended that existing staff may be designated as Quality Manager and Technical Manager to focus on quality issues with overall functioning of the blood banks so as to go ahead for strengthening QMS and accreditation.
4. The Expert Working Group recommended for increasing the minimum standards for blood banks doing blood component separation/ apheresis to an MBBS doctor possessing post graduate degree or diploma in Pathology/ Transfusion Medicine/ Immunohaematology and Blood Transfusion instead of plain MBBS. This is to ensure optimal utilization of specialists in Transfusion Medicine/ Immunohaematology and Blood Transfusion available in the country.

The detailed report is enclosed herewith. You are requested to look into implementation of these norms in your State so as to ensure recruitment and posting of adequate, qualified and trained human resource in licensed Blood Banks in the Government sector so as to optimize their functionality.

I would seek your personal attention towards successful implementation and monitoring of these norms.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Sanjeeva Kumar)

To:

The Principal Secretaries (H & FW) & President State Blood Transfusion Council of all States/UTs.

Encl:

1. Communications dated 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2018
2. Report of Expert Working Group on Review and Recommendations of Manpower Norms for Blood Banks (10 pages)