

Session 6: Education and Training

WHO Concept of Training and Education in Transfusion Medicine

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Capacity building in transfusion medicine is one of the core directions of the WHO strategy for global blood safety, responding to identified country needs. The integrated approach contributes actively towards the necessary development of blood transfusion services and effective prevention of fly/AIDS nosocomial transmission. In this respect, WHO is producing and providing documentation and guidelines on policy and technical issues, and focusing on different educational approaches to address the quality, safety, and adequacy of the blood supply. Training packages and programmes are developed continuously for different levels of knowledge and function, and are translated into several languages. Several are quoted below.

The distance learning materials “Safe Blood and Blood Products” address blood transfusion service staff. Modules cover safe blood transfusion practice, blood donation, testing, and trainers guide. Two further guides, “Safe and Effective Blood Collection” and “Blood Components Production”, are under development.

The “Clinical Use of Blood” manual and handbook promote practical advice to clinicians for adequate use of blood transfusion and alternatives. It is supported by WHO recommendations on “Developing a National Policy and Guidelines on the Clinical Use of Blood”. Appropriate technical and logistics information is provided to health core managers, on “Costing of Blood Transfusion Services”, and the recent “Blood Cold Chain — Guide to the Selection and Procurement of Equipment and Accessories”. The “Quality Management Programme” covers the many different links of the whole blood transfusion chain. Structured training programmes in transfusion medicine are considered an essential tool in increasing awareness and developing and strengthening staff abilities for safer transfusion practices. Therefore, the support of national health authorities and international collaborative partnerships is of utmost importance.

Keywords: blood; donation; education; guidelines; HIV/AIDS; prevention; resources; safety; testing; training; transfusion; WHO

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The United States Military Tri-Service Blood Bank Fellowship

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The United States Military Tri-Service Blood Bank Fellowship is an 18 month training program, beginning in June of each year, that prepares military blood banker officers to excel in the fields of clinical and operational blood banking in both peacetime and contingency environments. Course completion awards the students a Masters Degree in Health Sciences from George Washington University, Washington DC, and qualifies the graduates to challenge the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) examination. The course, based at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, consists of both clinical and didactic rotations conducted at numerous military medical centers throughout the US. Additionally, operational, planning and contingency training is conducted at the Armed Services Blood Program Office in Falls Church, Virginia. To date, one NATO individual has graduated from the program. Additional NATO student slots are available, to be funded by the submitting NATO country. Interested NATO officers should contact the US Armed Services Blood Program Office in Falls Church for more details.

Keywords: blood bank; clinical; didactic; fellowship; military
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Civil-Military Cooperation in an Asymmetrical Security Environment

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The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and the subsequent anthrax incidents clearly demonstrated the asymmetrical nature of the current security environment. In response, NATO has initiated a series of measures to cope with the threat of terrorism, a number of which are in cooperation with Partners. Among these measures are various initiatives that address the Consequence Management aspects of an attack against civilian populations with chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) agents. These include an inventory of national CBR response capabilities, a Civil Emergency Planning Action plan (endorsed by Heads of State and Governments in Prague), and a multifaceted Military Concept of Operations for Defence against terrorism. These and other initiatives not only call for more extensive civil-military cooperation, but, in certain cases, a transformation of that cooperation.

Keywords: anthrax; civilian; cooperation; management, consequence; inventories; military; security; weapons of mass destruction; terrorism

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