

HEMOCOMPONENTS SENT TO HAITI FOR TRANSFUSION: KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER

There is not a precise estimate of the real need for blood transfusions in the country. Obviously, there are many patients with multiple injuries or in need of surgery, but the use of blood depends on the capacity of the health services to .

1. The National Blood Transfusion Center (CNTS) of Haiti suffered structural and functional damage. Not all the CNTS staff has been located. The Ministry decided that the blood be stored at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), which is fully functional, but with limitations to manage their fuel generator. PAHO has made arrangements for providing fuel to NHPL to ensure continuing operations.
2. The Dominican Republic has sent blood and Bolivia and the United States have sent red blood cells. The American Red Cross has sent globular type O packages with documents indicating what tests—infection serology and hematology—have been done to the units. There’s a plan in place for the delivery of red blood cells for the week of Jan. 25.
3. The ability to store blood under appropriate conditions in Haiti is limited. The potential donor countries are requested to conduct a partial shipment according to information on storage capacity, so that LNSP can deliver it to hospitals, according to indications from the National Blood Program, without overloading the system storage.
4. PAHO recommends that only type O positive and O negative globular packets are sent so that they can be transfused without the need to test for compatibility. There are restrictions on local capacity to determine blood types and the risk of incompatible transfusions should be avoided.
5. The best option for the moment is to plan collections in other countries for delivery to Haiti in accordance with the needs - see the publication [THE ROLE OF LABORATORIES AND BLOOD BANKS IN EMERGENCIES](#).