



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL

66th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 29 September-3 October 2014

CD53.R6
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RESOLUTION

CD53.R6

PLAN OF ACTION FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE BLOOD

THE 53rd DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Plan of Action for Universal Access to Safe Blood* (Document CD53/6);

Observing the importance of effectively and sustainably integrating national blood programs and services into national health systems to achieve blood self-sufficiency, safety, efficiency, and availability, and universal access to blood and blood products, when and where these are needed to help save lives and improve the health condition of all people who need them, including children with severe anemia, the chronically ill, patients with hemoglobin disorders, injuries, or cancer, pregnant women, and patients who undergo major surgery;

Considering blood transfusion to be one of the eight key interventions in emergency obstetric care;

Aware of the efforts made by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the national blood programs of the Member States to strengthen national blood systems to improve access to blood, and its availability and safety;

Taking into account the joint evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Transfusion Safety 2006-2010, conducted in 2011 and presented to the 51st PAHO Directing Council in Document CD51/INF/5; and the achievements and challenges identified in the evaluation, which serve as a starting point for drafting the Plan of Action for Universal Access to Safe Blood 2014-2019;

Recognizing the need to adjust current national approaches to achieve sufficient blood supply, appropriate quality, and safe transfusion;

Concerned that in order to achieve self-sufficiency in blood and blood products, it will be necessary to increase the number of volunteer donors in the Region of the Americas, and considering that the collected blood is routinely processed to be transformed into blood components;

Motivated by the spirit of Pan-Americanism, the Millennium Development Goals binding universal and regional human rights instruments, and the challenge of achieving universal access to safe blood and blood products,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Plan of Action for Universal Access to Safe Blood* and its implementation in the context of the particular conditions of each country.
2. To urge the Member States, taking into account their national context and priorities to:
 - a) renew their commitment to supporting the establishment of well-organized, nationally coordinated, and sustainable blood programs and services that are integrated into the health system with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework necessary to advance toward ensuring universal access to blood and blood products through sufficient supply, quality, and safety, and the appropriate use of blood and blood products;
 - b) allocate the necessary resources for the proper functioning and development of the system, including:
 - i. financial resources to ensure the viability and transparent management of the system to prevent the sale of blood, except where national law so allows, and to prevent profiteering,
 - ii. the availability of trained human resources by supporting educational efforts and measures to avoid high staff rotation in blood services;
 - c) promote only non-remunerated, repeated, voluntary blood donations; and discourage remunerated and family/replacement donations, except where protected by the national regulatory system;
 - d) set up quality management systems that ensure: universal screening of blood for the markers that PAHO/WHO has stipulated for the Region, the implementation of national programs for external performance evaluation, the appropriate use of blood and blood products to promote patient safety, as well as the identification of needs for blood and blood products in order to guarantee universal access and reduce discards;

- e) promote intersectoral participation (public and private sector, other ministries, civil society, among others) to strengthen resources and achieve synergies that benefit the national blood system;
 - f) establish a regulatory framework that strengthens the health surveillance system to ensure regulation and oversight of the transfusion chain;
 - g) ensure mechanisms to implement a non-punitive hemovigilance system in which transfusion reactions are reported in order to identify timely interventions and take corrective action to minimize risks;
 - h) allocate and use, as appropriate, resources to achieve the objectives of the *Plan of Action for Universal Access to Safe Blood 2014-2019*;
 - i) establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate implementation of this Plan.
3. To request the Director to:
- a) cooperate with the Member States, as needed, in the implementation of this Plan 2014-2019, taking a multidisciplinary approach and considering health promotion, human rights, gender equity, and the social determinants of health;
 - b) promote the implementation of this Plan of Action and guarantee its cross-cutting nature through the Organization's program areas and the different regional, subregional, and national contexts, and through collaboration with and among the countries in strategy design and the sharing of competencies and resources;
 - c) continue advocating for active resource mobilization and promote partnerships that support the implementation of this resolution;
 - d) monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Plan of Action and report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress made and the obstacles to the implementation of the Plan, and on any necessary adaptations to new contexts and needs.

(Sixth meeting, 1 October 2014)