

Minutes of the 24th Governing Body Meeting of National Blood Transfusion Council

The 24th Meeting of Governing Body of National Blood Transfusion Council was held on 20th January 2014 in the Committee Room, VI Floor, DAC, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DAC) as President of NBTC.

The following members attended the meeting:

1. Shri. Lov Verma, Secretary, Department of AIDS Control, New Delhi – in Chair
2. Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, New Delhi
3. Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi
4. Dr. Neelam Marwah, HOD, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Chandigarh
5. Dr. Latha Jagannathan, Medical Director & Managing Trustee, Rotary-TTK Blood Bank, Bangalore
6. Dr. T.R. Raina, Prof. & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Jammu
7. Dr. N.R. Vaidya, Indian Medical Association, New Delhi being representative of President IMA, Delhi
8. Shri. Apurba Ghosh, Secretary General, West Bengal Voluntary Blood Donors' Forum, North 24 Parganas (W.B.)
9. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jadhav, Director, Maharashtra State Blood Transfusion Council, Mumbai
10. Shri. Suresh K. Kalwaniya, CDSCO, New Delhi
11. Lt. Col. Dr. Satish Kumar, AFTC, New Delhi
12. Dr. K. Selvarajan, Former JD (BS) Tamilnadu SACS & Director SBTC, Chennai
13. Shri. Bishnu P. Kirtania, Under Secretary, (IFD), MoHFW, New Delhi-being representative AS& FA, MoHFW, Delhi
14. Dr. S.D. Khaparde, DDG (Blood Safety), Department of AIDS Control, New Delhi
15. Dr. Shobini Rajan, Director, NBTC & ADG (Blood Safety) Department of AIDS Control, New Delhi

Special invitees:

1. Dr. Zarin Bharucha, Chairperson IRCS Bombay City Blood Bank & FBBB, Mumbai
2. Dr. Himanshu Bhushan, NRHM, New Delhi
3. Dr. Chandrashekhar Ranga, CDSCO, New Delhi
4. Dr. Vanshree Singh, Director Blood Bank, IRCS, New Delhi

Attendees from Blood Transfusion Services Division, DAC

1. Dr. Harprit Singh, NPO ((Blood Safety) DAC, New Delhi

2. Ms Vinita Srivastava, PO VBD, NBTC
3. Dr Shanoo Mishra, PO (Quality), NBTC

The following Non-official (representative) Members could not attend the Meeting:

1. AS & Financial Adviser M/o Health, New Delhi, who deputed the Under Secretary IFD, MoHFW, Delhi
2. Dr. Jayashreeben Mehta, President, Medical Council of India, New Delhi
3. Dr. M.C. Mishra Director, AIIMS, New Delhi
4. Dr. Rajendra Chaudhary HOD, Deptt. of Transfusion Medicine, SGPGIMS, Lucknow could not attend due to postponement of flight.

The Secretary (DAC) as President of the Governing Body welcomed all members of the Governing Body of NBTC and expressed his concern about non-regularity in convening the meetings of the Governing Body. He directed the Member Secretary that in future at least two meetings of the Governing Body should be convened every year.

Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, New Delhi deliberated in detail on all the aspects of the Blood Transfusion Services and made the following suggestions:

- The decisions of the Governing Body of NBTC should be followed strictly by all the Blood Banks.
- State Director Health Services should be made Head of SBTC.
- NRHM should provide funds to SBTCs.
- Proper co-ordination between Policy and Regulation on Blood Transfusion should exist. Drug and Cosmetics Rules should be amended to give accessibility of safe blood to all.
- District blood banks should be strengthened.
- State of art blood storage centres should be established in each District.
- NBTC should conduct Blood donation drive in association with IMA (Indian Medical Association).
- The Regional Blood Transfusion Centres should be strengthened.

Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi also discussed in detail the Blood Transfusion Services and made the following suggestions:

- Medical auditing of Blood Mobile Vans should be done.

- DAC should collaborate with Indian Red Cross Association to create access to safe blood in underserved areas.
- DAC should consider providing Leuko depletion blood bags for use in Thalassaemic children
- Delhi IRCS Blood Bank may be a part of NAT Testing pilot and e- blood banking pilot.

The discussion points of other experts are summarized below:

- Family donor should not be considered voluntary donor as relative donating blood to a relative is not voluntary donation.
- Repeated voluntary blood donor should be encouraged and replacement blood donation should be phased out.
- A policy should be framed between DAC and NRHM for proper implementation of Blood Transfusion Services across the Country.
- Existing Model of Supreme Court for NBTC and SBTC should be followed. Route map of implementation of Supreme Court verdict should be prepared.

The agenda items are summarised below:

1. Items for approval of Governing Body of NBTC

- i. Approval of minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Governing Body of National Blood Transfusion Council.
- ii. Action Taken Report of 23rd Governing Body Meeting of NBTC Agenda Items for approval
- iii. Approval of Revised Service Charges for Blood and Blood components
- iv. Ratification of Expert Group Recommendation on NAAT
- v. Constitution of Executive Committee for NBTC
- vi. Delegation of work related to NBTC to officers of Department of AIDS Control
- vii. Recruitment Rules for regular posts in NBTC
- viii. Conduction of Bi-annual Review Meeting of SBTC
- ix. Approval of pattern of assistance for conduction of Voluntary Blood Donation camps in outdoor location and in Blood Mobiles
- x. Approval of Audit Report of NBTC for year 2011-12 and 2012-13
- xi. Approval of the Annual Plan for NBTC 2013-2014 & 2014-2015

2. Items for review/ appraisal of Governing Body of NBTC

- i. Blood Transfusion Services under NACP IV
- ii. Status of Metro Blood Bank Project
- iii. Status of Plasma Fractionation Project

- iv. Constitution of Expert Committee for Blood Access
- v. Initiatives for E-Blood Banking
- vi. Amendments in Drugs & Cosmetic Act
- vii. Core Blood Bank Assessment Committee at state level and national level

3. Any other matters with permission of Chair

The agenda-wise discussions were held and the following decisions were taken in the meeting:

Agenda Item No. 1: Approval of minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Governing Body of National Blood Transfusion Council held at New Delhi on 2nd December 2011;

- The minutes of the 23rd Governing Body meeting of NBTC held on 2nd December 2011 were approved by the Governing Body.

Agenda Item No. 2: Action Taken Report on proceedings of the 23rd Governing Body of NBTC

- The Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Governing Body of NBTC was approved by the Governing Body.

Agenda No. 3: Agenda Items for approval:

The decisions taken on various agenda items for approval by Governing body are as follows:

Agenda Item No. 3.1: Revision of service charges for blood and blood components;

- The members approved the revised service charges for blood and blood components as described in the agenda but with a suggestion to freeze the ceiling cost of each test/ procedure with the phrase "**not exceeding more than**". Costing has been done for two different categories, Government and Non- Government Blood Banks:

Costing for Whole Blood			
S.No.	Determinants of cost	Whole Blood Government	Whole Blood Non Government
1	Consumables / material (including stationery & IEC)		
	Blood Bags	50	60
	Kits for Transfusion Transmitted infection testing	200	250
	Donor Haemoglobin	30	50
	Blood Grouping	70	70
	Cross matching	70	70
	Chemicals	10	30
	Stationery	20	50
	Glassware and plastic ware	70	70
2	Salary (human resource)	300	500
3	Equipments maintenance and depreciation	50	80
4	Power (electrical supply including generator backup)	70	90
5	Biomedical waste management	10	10
6	Donor Refreshment	25	25
7	Quality Assurance	25	25
		1000	1380
8	Wastage (@ approximately 5% for Whole Blood, 7% for Components)	50	70
	Total Effective Cost	1050	1450

Costing for Blood Components			
S.No.	Determinants of cost	Components Government	Whole Blood Non Government
1	Consumables / material (including stationery & IEC)		
	Blood Bags	200	280
	Kits for Transfusion Transmitted infection testing	200	250
	Donor Haemoglobin	30	50
	Blood Grouping	70	70
	Cross matching	70	70
	Chemicals	10	30
	Stationery	35	60
	Glassware and plastic ware	100	100
2	Salary (human resource)	400	600
3	Equipments maintenance and depreciation	140	250
4	Power (electrical supply including generator backup)	140	200
5	Biomedical waste management	20	20
6	Donor Refreshment	25	25
7	Quality Assurance	100	100
		1540	2105
8	Wastage (@ approximately 5% for Whole Blood, 7% for Components)	110	145
	Total Effective Cost	1650	2250

For Government blood banks, the processing charges are recommended as detailed below.

1.	Whole Blood	-	Rs. 1050/- per unit
2.	Packed Red Cells	-	Rs. 1050/- per unit
3.	Fresh frozen Plasma	-	Rs. 300/- per unit
4.	Platelet concentrate	-	Rs. 300/- per unit
5.	Cryoprecipitate	-	Rs. 200/- per unit

For non- government blood banks, the processing charges are worked out as detailed below.

1.	Whole Blood	-	Rs. 1450/- per unit
2.	Packed Red Cells	-	Rs. 1450/- per unit
3.	Fresh frozen Plasma	-	Rs. 400/- per unit
4.	Platelet concentrate	-	Rs. 400/- per unit
5.	Cryoprecipitate	-	Rs. 250/- per unit

Tests	Charges
NAT	Rs. 1200
Chemiluminescence	Rs. 500
IV Generation ELISA (HIV)	Rs. 50
IV Generation ELISA (HBs Ag)	Rs. 50
IV Generation ELISA (HCV)	Rs. 150
Anti HBc	Rs. 250
Antibody screening (donor)	Rs. 300

Tests/ procedures	Charges	Applicable to
Leuco filtration Red cells	Rs. 1000	Whole blood/ Red cells
Leuco filtration Platelets	Rs. 1500	Platelets
Grouping and cross matching by automation	Rs. 280	Whole blood/ Red cells
Grouping and cross matching by semi automation	Rs. 120	Whole blood/ Red cells
Phenotyping for extended serology	Rs. 500	Whole blood/ Red cells
Irradiation	Rs. 1000	Whole blood/ Red cells/ platelets/ Granulocytes
Bacterial detection	Rs. 400	Platelets

Additional processing charges for blood components using Quadruple bags by buffy coat method are recommended as follows

Red Cells	Rs 150
Platelets	Rs 150
Plasma	Rs 100

The cost of platelet apheresis should not exceed Rs. 11000/- per unit in non government blood banks.

- The expert committee recommendations (Annexure 2) were approved by the Governing Body.

Agenda Item No. 3.2: Ratification of Expert Group Recommendation on NAAT

- The expert group recommendations of NAAT (Annexure 3) were ratified by the Governing Body.
- Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, New Delhi suggested that the Regional Blood Transfusion Centres should be part of the NAAT testing pilot study. Secretary General IRCS suggested inclusion of IRCS Blood Bank Delhi to be part of the pilot.
- The Department would prepare the scientific protocol for the same and present to the GB for approval in next meeting.

Agenda Item No.3.3: Constitution of Executive Committee for NBTC

- The Governing Body approved the constitution of Executive Committee for NBTC as per proposed composition for the Constitution of the Executive Committee for NBTC with a further inclusion of a representative from DGHS in the Committee.

Agenda Item No.3.4: Delegation of work related to NBTC to officers of Department of AIDS Control

- The Governing Body approved delegation of NBTC related work to officers of Department of AIDS Control and payment of honorarium in lieu thereof as per GOI norms till such time as regular positions in NBTC are filled and a full time Director is in charge

Agenda Item No.3.5: Recruitment Rules for regular posts in NBTC

- The Governing Body approved the recruitment rules for all five regular positions in NBTC (Annexure 6).
- Dr. T.R. Raina, Prof. & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Jammu expressed concern over the non filling of these posts since inception and said that steps should be initiated to fill the regular positions at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. 3.6: Conduction of Bi-annual Review Meeting of SBTC

- **The Governing Body approved conduction of bi-annual review meetings of State Blood Transfusion Council so as to ensure efficient implementation of the national blood programme.**
- Governing Body also sought a review the structure, manpower and policy norms of the SBTC with a view to develop uniform standards, systems and structures for all SBTC. The activity should be completed by 30th April 2014.

Agenda Item No. 3.7: Approval of Pattern of assistance for conduction of voluntary blood donation camps in outdoor location and in Blood Mobiles 2012 – 13:

- The Governing Body approved the pattern of assistance for conduction of Voluntary Blood Donation camps in outdoor location

	Unit cost	Total per camp of 75 donations
Certificate and badge/pins/ memento	Rs 15 per donor	1125
Transportation		Rs 1000
IEC Material (Banners/ Leaflets)		Rs 375
Total		Rs 2500
Donor Refreshment	Rs 25 per donor	Rs 1875

DA for staff attending the camps may be borne as per the state norms through state funds for the government hospitals and for the charitable blood banks from the blood banks.

- The Governing Body approved the norms and pattern of assistance for Blood Mobiles.
 1. Blood Donation Mobile is a property of respective State AIDS Control Society (SACS) or the State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) and shall be registered in the name of Project Director/ Director of the respective SACS / SBTC.
 2. Blood Donation Mobile Van shall be preferably designated to meet the demands of many districts and Blood Banks as decided by respective

- SACS / SBTC. Blood Donation Mobile Van shall be used exclusively for the purpose of organization of Voluntary Blood Donation Camps only.
3. SACS /SBTC may ask DAC supported blood banks to provide their monthly calendar regarding blood donation camps.
 4. Maintenance of Blood Donation Mobile Van (including equipments, log books) including the recruitment of staff (Driver & Helper) shall be the responsibility of respective SACS/ SBTC/ Blood Bank.
 5. Blood Donation Mobile Van must be optimally used for not less than 25 days and possibly 1 camps per day collecting around 30-40 units per camp.
 6. Vehicle may be moved in the peripheral area of 250 km of model blood bank. Vehicle should be used by all the blood banks coming in that territory

Budget for the camps conducted in blood mobile would be similar to that for outdoor camps excluding transportation. Additional funds for fuel over and above the support from DAC needs to be borne by the state.

- The members of the Governing Body also suggested that a proper camp schedule should be framed by the Blood Banks in advance.
- Shri Apurba Ghosh expressed concern over non timely release of funds for activities to promote voluntary blood donation including camps by State AIDS Control Societies.

Agenda Item No. 3.8: Approval of audit Report of NBTC for year 2011 –12 and 2012 -13:

- The Governing Body approved the audit report of NBTC for the year 2011 – 12 and 2012 – 13.

Agenda Item No. 3.9: Approval of the annual plan for NBTC 2013-2014 & 2014-2015

- The Governing Body approved the Annual Action Plan for National Blood Transfusion Council for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 including the following:
 - **E- Blood Banking** with a total financial implication of around **Rs. 30.00 lakhs** for the year 2014-15.
 - **IEC activities for voluntary blood donation** with a total financial implication for IEC materials of around **Rs. 50.00 lakhs** for the year 2014-15.

➤ **Meetings/ Trainings**

S. No.	Meeting/ Training/ Workshop	Expenditure (Approx.)	Frequency of the Meetings
1.	National workshop for Voluntary Blood donation	Rs 25.00 lakhs	
2.	Meeting with Secretary Health and State Health Secretaries	Rs. 20.00 lakhs	01
3.	Review meeting with the Member Secretary of SBTC	Rs. 10.00 lakhs	02
4.	Governing Body meeting of NBTC	Rs. 5.00 lakhs	02
5.	Meeting of TRG	Rs. 5.00 lakhs	02
6.	Meeting of Expert Group (Voluntary Blood Donation)	Rs. 5.00 lakhs	
7.	Meeting of Expert Group Committees and Executive Committee of NBTC	Rs. 20.00 lakhs	

➤ **Remuneration of NBTC officials: A fund of Rs 29.00 Lakhs will be needed to support salaries of staff in NBTC.**

➤ **Honorarium for Financial and Administrative work support: A fund of Rs 1.00 Lakhs will be needed to support honorarium of staff in NBTC.**

- The Governing Body approved the total budget of Rs. 200.00 lakhs required for above-mentioned activities NBTC during the year 2014-15.

Agenda Item No. 3.10: Items for review/ appraisal of Governing Body of NBTC

3.10.1.: Blood Transfusion Services under NACP IV:

- The key strategies and targets for Blood Transfusion Services under NACP IV were deliberated in detail with the Governing Body and consent on the same was taken.

3.10.2.: Status of Metro Blood Bank Project:

- The present status was discussed and it was decided to proceed in the project.
- Director General Health Services opined that Centres of Excellence are required more in the weaker areas with poor blood access and not in Metro cities. Metro Blood Bank Project should be reworked accordingly. Secretary DAC however indicated that the project in its present scope has the Cabinet

approval and the Department would proceed further as per the approval. The same was approved by the Governing Body.

3.10.3.: Status of Plasma Fractionation Project:

- The current status was deliberated. The Governing Body **desired to be apprised of the progress in next meeting.**
- Shri Apurba Ghosh opined that India should have its state owned PFC.

3.10.4.: Constitution of Expert Committee for Blood Access:

- The members of the Governing Body **suggested expanding the Expert Committee** and recommended for inclusion of Lt. Col. Dr. Satish Kumar, AFTC, New Delhi , Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jadhav, Director, Maharashtra State Blood Transfusion Council, Mumbai and Dr. Latha Jagannathan, Medical Director & Managing Trustee, Rotary-TTK Blood Bank, Bangalore in the Expert Committee.
- There was also discussion on Unbanked Directed Blood Transfusion (UDBT) and Governing body indicated that it should not be legalized and blood transfusion services should provide accessibility of blood to rural /tribal and far flung areas. The expert committee should look into the same.
- Maharashtra State Blood Transfusion Council has started transporting blood on call to rural and tribal areas through a project which may be examined by the Department of AIDS Control to improve access to safe blood.
- Transportation of blood from the mother blood bank or RBTC to FRU may be made available either through the Mobile blood van or through the blood bag carriers which are available and maintain the cold chain for more than 36 hrs and these boxes are WHO pre qualified.

Agenda 3.10.5.: Initiatives for E-Blood Banking:

- The Governing Body discussed and deliberated on the initiatives of DAC for E-Blood Banking and desired **to be apprised of the progress in next meeting.**
- It was suggested that the department also look at models in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States.

Agenda 3.10.6.: Pending amendments in Drugs & Cosmetic Act:

- The Governing Body deliberated on the pending amendments in Drugs & Cosmetic Act and expressed serious concern at the delay.
- Regulatory clauses pertaining to captive consumption of below 2000 for set up of blood storage centres and clauses not permitting inter blood bank transfer of uncross matched blood and blood component and lack of clarity in set up of blood storage centres in private sector were cited as a hindrance to safe blood access.

- DGHS asked for a meeting to be convened under his chairpersonship to discuss all issues pertaining to regulation and coordination with Health systems at the earliest.

Agenda 3.10.7.: Core Blood Bank Assessment Committee at State level and National level:

- It was suggested that a Core Blood Bank Assessment Committee must be created at State and National level to ensure strict compliance with policy and regulation. The committee should comprise representation from DAC/NBTC/ DGCI/ DGHS/NHM/ Blood Transfusion Experts at National level and SACS/SBTC/State FDA/ State Directorate Health Services/ State Health Mission/ Blood Transfusion Experts.
- The SBTCs all over the Country should be reviewed, strengthened and empowered.
- The core committees would also be responsible for conduct of planned periodic as well as surprise visits to blood banks and also enquire into complaints and media reports pertaining to blood transfusion services.

Agenda 3.10.8.: Expert Group for Voluntary Blood Donation:

- The Governing Body discussed and deliberated on creation of an Expert Group for Voluntary Blood Donation for revision of guidelines on VBD and **desired to be apprised of the progress in the next meeting.**

Agenda 4: Any other matters with permission of Chair

- **Shri Lov Verma, Secretary, Department of AIDS Control, New Delhi** directed the Drug Controller General (India) to look into the possibility of making suitable provisions in the Act making it mandatory to adhere to the directives issued by NBTC.
- The Governing Body reiterated that all necessary steps for **strengthening of NBTC** must be taken. Secretary requested for the proposal to be put up immediately and consent of members taken through circulation.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.