

2018

# National Blood Policy

## Maldives

Maldivian Blood Services  
Ministry of Health



Maldivian  
Blood Services



### **Copyright notice**

This policy and its content are copyright © Ministry of Health Maldives 2018. All rights reserved.

Any redistribution or reproduction of part or all of the contents in any form is prohibited other than the following:

- you may print or download to a local hard disk extracts for your personal and non-commercial use only
- you may copy the content to individual third parties for their personal use, but only if you acknowledge the website as the source of the material

You may not, except with our express written permission, distribute or commercially exploit the content. Nor may you transmit it or store it in any other website or other form of electronic retrieval system.

# **NATIONAL BLOOD POLICY MALDIVES**

---

**Maldivian Blood Services**

**Ministry of Health**

**No: Policy/23-MOH/2018/03**

**14 November 2018**

**Endorsed By:**



**Mr. Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim**

**Minister of Health**

**Ministry of Health**



**Ms. Khadeeja Abdul Samad Abdulla**

**Permanent Secretary**

**Ministry of Health**

# Contents

---

Foreword .....	5
Acronyms.....	6
Introduction.....	7
Policy Statement.....	8
Policy Objective .....	8
Objective 1. Government Commitment to ensure the provision of safe and quality blood and blood components for every patient in need of transfusion through a well-coordinated National blood transfusion service. ....	9
Objective 2. To ensure availability of adequate resources for the development and organization of the BTS in the country. ....	11
Objective 3. To update the BTS with recent advancements and initiate quality systems in operating the services.....	12
Objective 4. To promote voluntary non-remunerated donor recruitment and retention.....	13
Objective 5. To promote appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products. ....	14
Objective 6. To strengthen and develop human resource in the country.....	15
Objective 7. To initiate regulatory and legislative procedures for licensing, monitoring and evaluation of BTS including measures for non-profiteering in blood banking.....	16
Objective 8. To encourage research and development in blood transfusions services and hematological disorders.....	17

## Foreword

Maldives is a country with a relatively large population of Thalassemia patients per capita whom of which depend on routine blood transfusions. In addition, many encounter scenarios where they desperately need blood transfusions. Without blood and blood transfusions, many precious lives would be in danger. A blood transfusion is an essential part of daily clinical practice, however it can be a potentially hazardous procedure if done incorrectly that may result in acute hemolytic reactions and transfusion-transmitted infections.

A blood policy that addresses the issues in the current system, ameliorates the current standards in order to provide quality transfusion of blood and blood products is not only necessary but essential too. This blood policy, once implemented will ensure that all blood and blood products transfused in the Maldives meet a standard, guaranteeing safe and quality blood and blood products for all.

I would like to express gratitude to everyone who contributed in formulating this blood policy. I would like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of the staff of Maldivian Blood Services as well as IGMH senior doctors and health professionals, who gave the permission to use all required equipment and the necessary materials to complete the task. The technical input and direction provided by the members of the National Blood Council completed the development of this policy. I would also like to mention the effort and work done by Policy Planning and International Health Division of Ministry of Health and the support provided by Permanent Secretary Kadheeja Abdul Samad in completing this policy.

I am convinced that can this document will help the health professionals of Maldives to practice and administer safe blood procedures. With this, the medical and clinical health standards of Maldives will be homogenous creating favorable conditions all around the country.



Hon. Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim

Minister of Health

## **Acronyms**

<b>BTS</b>	Blood Transfusion Services
<b>HR</b>	Human Resource
<b>MBS</b>	Maldivian Blood Services
<b>MFDA</b>	Maldives Food and Drug Authority
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>NBTS</b>	National blood transfusion service
<b>NBC</b>	National Blood Council
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>QARD</b>	Quality Assurance Regulation Division
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>TTI</b>	Transfusion Transmitted Infections

## **Introduction**

A well-organized nationally coordinated blood transfusion service is a vital component of healthcare delivery system. National blood policy is a prerequisite to ensure the provision of a safe, adequate and accessible supply of high-quality blood and blood products to all patients in need of a transfusion.

An integrated strategy for blood safety required to minimize transfusion transmitted infection (TTI) includes the collection of blood from voluntary non-remunerated blood donors, screening all donations for TTI and encouraging the appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products.

Blood transfusion is a basic necessity for thalassemia patients in Maldives, who require repeated and regular transfusion. Transfusion dependency on directed donations as well as the complications of transfusion which arise frequently envisage a blood service that follows standards and quality systems in blood banking.

There is an urgent need for the Ministry of Health to put in place, formal regulatory and supervisory tools for improving blood transfusion safety in the country.

This policy document is being developed in response to that need and it forms the foundation for the development of key blood transfusion guidelines and legislation

## **Policy Statement**

The Republic of the Maldives commits to ensure the provision of safe and quality blood and blood components collected from low-risk, voluntary, non-remunerated regular blood donors for every patient in need of transfusion through a well-coordinated National blood transfusion service.

The policy ensures quality management systems for recruitment, collection, processing, and transfusion transmitted infection testing, storage, compatibility testing, transport and administration of blood in well-equipped premises for all irrespective of their socioeconomic standing, cultural backgrounds, and other societal variables.

## **Policy Objective**

With the above broad goals in mind, the following objectives are drawn

1. Government Commitment to ensure the provision of safe and quality blood and blood components for every patient in need of transfusion through a well-coordinated National blood transfusion service (BTS).
2. To ensure availability of adequate resources for the development and organization of the BTS in the country.
3. To update the BTS with recent advancements and initiate quality systems in operating the services.
4. To promote voluntary non-remunerated donor recruitment and retention. To promote appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products.
5. To strengthen and develop human resource in the country.
6. To initiate regulatory and legislative procedures for licensing, monitoring and evaluation of BTS including measures for non-profiteering in blood banking.
7. To encourage research and development in blood transfusions services and hematological disorders.

Objective 1. Government Commitment to ensure the provision of safe and quality blood and blood components for every patient in need of transfusion through a well-coordinated National blood transfusion service.

*Strategies*

- 1.1 The Ministry of health will formulate a National Blood Council (NBC) to make the policies for blood services and provide advisory to the Minister.
- 1.2 The NBC shall be responsible for formulating policies, rules, regulations, standards and guidelines for donor recruitment, collection, storage and transfusion of blood and blood products in a timely efficient and effective manner.
- 1.3 Maldivian Blood Services (MBS) will be designated as National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) which in turn will be linked to the tertiary and secondary level center's to meet the blood requirements of the country.
- 1.4 MBS will coordinate blood banking services including blood camps, blood transfusion services throughout the country. It will establish two way streamlined linkage mechanism and coordination with Tertiary level blood bank IGMH, secondary level I and II for supply/exchange of blood and blood components and with Secondary level III blood storage centers for distribution of blood only.
- 1.5 MBS and designated other blood centres will recruit blood donors, collect blood, process blood, perform testing, store and issue blood to all patients.
- 1.6 The development and implementation of a national strategy for the screening of all donated blood for transfusion-transmissible infections
- 1.7 As per international standards and guidelines. It should include usage of the most appropriate and effective assays to test for transfusion-transmissible infections
- 1.8 Establish standards for equipment, test reagents and consumables for blood collection, testing, storage, distribution and administration of blood and blood products shall be carried out centrally at MBS.
- 1.9 A reliable and accessible transport system and networking for the blood samples as well as blood products shall be established and sustained.
- 1.10 MBS will establish the mechanism to monitor the quality and adequacy of the services through internal / external auditing. This includes monitoring of the facilities and ensuring personnel competency and monitoring of all activities and levels of blood transfusion services.

- 1.11 MFDA as regulatory body will monitor the standards and regulate the blood and blood products.
- 1.12 QARD of MOH will monitor and regulate blood transfusion centers and transfusion facilities.

**Objective 2. To ensure availability of adequate resources for the development and organization of the BTS in the country.**

*Strategies*

- 2.1 Blood transfusion service (BTS) shall be adequately supported financially through government with additional funds from external agencies as required.
- 2.2 NBC will prepare guidelines for non-profit cost recovery and cost subsidized mechanisms to make blood transfusion services viable.
- 2.3 Ensure availability of appropriate and reliable insurance scheme or other suitable long term financing schemes.

Objective 3. To update the BTS with recent advancements and initiate quality systems in operating the services.

*Strategies*

- 3.1 To ensure development and implementation of National standards for recruitment, collection, testing, processing, component preparation, storage, and distribution.
- 3.2 Encourage use of automation such as bar codes and interfacing of equipment with blood bank management software to improve efficiency and prevent manual errors.
- 3.3 To initiate a Quality management system in blood banks to ensure sustainability and overall safety of entire transfusion process by strengthening and supporting the blood services.
- 3.4 Conduct training on quality management in blood banks.
- 3.5 Each center to develop a Quality manual, supporting procedures, SOP's Formats, records and other documents with consultative support from MBS
- 3.6 Designate MBS as referral centers. for solving problem cases.
- 3.7 Establish internal quality control procedures in blood banks and develop systems for participation in External Quality Assurance Systems.
- 3.8 To ensure a mechanism for procurement, supply, central storage and distribution of reagents and materials is outlined for uninterrupted supply at all sites.
- 3.9 Provide training to all blood centers to follow and implement infection control and biosafety practices as per National guidelines.
- 3.10** Ensure waste management practices conform to National policy and guidelines including use of international best practices

**Objective 4. To promote voluntary non-remunerated donor recruitment and retention.**

*Strategies*

- 4.1 Formulate a National Program for voluntary blood donation and appoint program officers for voluntary blood donation movement, donor recruitment officers, donor motivators, donor counselors and other relevant personnel to promote voluntary blood donation movement in the country.
- 4.2 Encourage NGO's to participate in educating and increasing public awareness and motivation of potential and existing blood donors, especially the youth.
- 4.3 Dissipate information, education and awareness to discourage and phase out directed donations and encourage voluntary blood donations.
- 4.4 Develop and maintain a national network of donor data base with a unique donor number. This database shall be used to minimize the chances of transfusion of blood from first degree relatives.
- 4.5 Work out an appropriate information system for registration and recall of Voluntary blood donors.
- 4.6 Develop a pre and post donation counseling program to counsel donors on TTI and policy on donor notification on reactive results.
- 4.7 Involve print, electronic media and other apps to promote voluntary blood donation
- 4.8 Annual celebration of World Blood Donor Day (14 June) to increase awareness and thank blood donors.

## Objective 5. To promote appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products.

### *Strategies*

- 5.1 Develop National guidelines on clinical use of blood and blood products.
- 5.2 Impart education, awareness, and training on the clinical use of blood to the clinicians (Government as well as Private sector) through training programs, workshops, CME, distribution, and display of aides' memories at regular intervals.
- 5.3 Ensure availability of blood components through a national distribution network of MBS across the country in both public and private tertiary level and I, II, III secondary level blood centers as applicable.
- 5.4 Ensure availability of storage equipment for blood and blood components at the MBS, tertiary level and I, II, III secondary level blood centers.
- 5.5 Ensure adequate facilities for transport of blood and blood components to and from MBS, tertiary level I, II, III secondary blood centers with cold supply chain management.
- 5.6 Ensure adequate facilities for administration of blood and blood components at MBS, tertiary level I, II, III secondary blood center.
- 5.7 Establish functional Hospital transfusion monitoring mechanism in each hospital and transfusion center to monitor and audit the use of blood & blood products and adverse reaction reporting including Haemovigilance.
- 5.8 Promote appropriate alternative strategies to minimize the need for blood transfusion.
- 5.9 Ensure a plan for blood supply chain management during disasters.

## Objective 6. To strengthen and develop human resource in the country.

### *Strategies*

- 6.1 Facilitate national and international training to develop HR capacity to manage and improve blood transfusion services at all levels of health facilities as a national priority.
- 6.2 Develop training modules for clinical and allied health professionals including Doctors, Technologists, and Nurses as well as Donor recruitment officers, organizers and counselors.
- 6.3 Organize training program for all categories of personnel in BTS for capacity building in all aspects of blood transfusion to improve the safety and quality of blood. Conduct Training of trainers and follow up mechanism in order to continue ongoing annual training programs in BTS throughout the country.
- 6.4 Organize and support advocacy programs for the community and NGO's on voluntary donor motivation and recruitment to phase out the directed donations in the country.

Objective 7. To initiate regulatory and legislative procedures for licensing, monitoring and evaluation of BTS including measures for non-profiteering in blood banking.

*Strategies*

- 7.1 Develop and enforce the regulatory and legislative mechanisms necessary for the NBTS of Maldives.
- 7.2 Ministry of Health to develop and initiate the process as the principle licensor for the government and private health service institutions in Maldives. To oversee the activities pertaining to NBTS as defined by policies and laws.
- 7.3 Approval and license will be pre requisite for blood banking facilities being setup from the licensing authority.
- 7.4 Remuneration for a donation of blood shall be declared illegal. No material incentive or benefits should be offered to those donating blood. No prohibition on presenting a voluntary donor or a frequent donor with any kind of a memento to promote voluntary donation.
- 7.5 Trading of blood and blood products shall be prohibited and steps taken to prevent undue profiteering in BTS.
- 7.6 Blood and blood products may be exchanged between two authorized blood centers in case of any requirement, as per standards.
- 7.7 Pre- test Donor counseling should be essentially done before mandatory testing of the blood for TTI screening purposes, mere signing of the consent for testing is inappropriate.
- 7.8 No charges shall be levied for the blood transfusions. However, charges could be levied on storage, testing or other blood services
- 7.9 Confidentiality should be maintained as per medical ethics. Any breach of confidentiality will initiate strict actions.
- 7.10 Implement regulatory mechanism for deterring unlawful practices in the blood banking

Objective 8. To encourage research and development in blood transfusions services and hematological disorders.

*Strategies*

- 8.1 Facilitate research in blood transfusions services and hematological disorders.
- 8.2 Promote operational research on various aspects of blood transfusions services.

