

Technical Assistance for Improving the Blood Transfusion Management System in Turkey

Patient Blood Management (PBM) is a multidisciplinary approach that aims to implement evidence-based medical and surgical concepts to maintain the optimal physiological tolerance of anaemia with the purpose of protecting the erythrocyte mass (haemoglobin concentration) and minimizing blood loss. PBM seeks to lead to an improvement in the disease prognosis by performing blood transfusion only when it is necessary. This approach reduces unnecessary transfusions, therefore transfusion reactions and other adverse effects caused by transfusion. PBM principles can reduce the need for transfusion and associated costs, while allowing blood from a limited number of donors to be used for patients who need it the most. At the sixty-third session of the World Health Assembly that was held in Geneva in 2010, the World Health Organisation took a decision (Paragraph 6) which urged the member states to adopt PBM system with the purpose of ensuring quality, safety and effectiveness of blood and blood products. EU member countries implemented their national projects to comply with this decision. These projects facilitated the delivery of trainings to various target groups including clinicians as well as publication of PBM guidelines.

Within this framework, the Project titled “Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Blood Transfusion Management System in Turkey (EuropeAid/139230/IH/SER/TR), co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey, has commenced on 20 March 2019. The project will focus on patient blood management and the main beneficiary of the project is the Ministry of Health. As a result of the tender process, EPOS-Sanquin-Hemosoft Consortium was selected for implementing the project which will continue for 3 years.

Project stakeholders include hospitals (medical schools/faculties, state hospitals, private and foundation hospitals), transfusion committees and transfusion centers of hospitals, Turkish Red Crescent, temporary regional blood centers, NGOs/associations operating in the field, Higher Education Board and Social Security Institution.

Objectives of the Project:

- Improving the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Health and stakeholders involved in patient blood management and transfusion management,
- Raising awareness about patient blood management and blood transfusion management,
- Conducting scientific and technical studies on various aspects of patient blood management and blood transfusion along with suggestions for improvement of blood transfusion system, and
- Establishing cooperation and coordination mechanisms with stakeholders on blood transfusion and patient blood management.



Bu proje Avrupa Birliği ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir.
This project is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.

Expected Outputs:

- National PBM Strategy and Action Plan will be published,
- Evidence-based National Patient Blood Management Guidelines will be prepared for 6 different medical specialisation fields,
- Following the training needs analysis to be conducted via online surveys, 2520 specialist physicians involved in blood transfusion will be trained face-to-face on patient blood management. An additional 7500 individuals will be provided with e-training,
- 75 professional physicians will be provided with ‘training of trainers’ to ensure the sustainability of training activities after the project ends,
- The curriculum related to transfusion medicine will be examined and developed in collaboration with the Higher Education Board and the Medical Specialties Board,
- The current situation will be analyzed by various studies on functional evaluation of blood transfusion centers and clinical use of blood,
- A web site will be created for the project which will encompass announcements, e-training materials, online surveys and components that allow information exchange among stakeholders. Appropriate infrastructure will be established for the maintenance of this system by the Ministry after the completion of the project,
- Visual materials, press releases and a spot film will be produced to raise awareness,
- Cost analysis for blood and blood components and transfusion will be carried out with the Social Security Institution,
- In order to improve the inspection capacity of the Ministry of Health, an inspection guide will be published for blood service units and auditor trainings will be provided,
- Quality indicators required for monitoring the proper clinical use of blood will be created and traceability by the Ministry will be ensured,
- A PBM software system will be developed in order to improve the quality and safety of transfusion applications through a demographic and medical reporting system which will demonstrate the relationship between the transfusion of blood and blood components and indications.

Consequently;

A National Patient Blood Management Strategy and Action Plan will be established and put into effect. Its integration with the National Health Policy will be ensured through a multi-stakeholder representation.

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