



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



41st DIRECTING COUNCIL

51st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 27 September-1 October 1999

RESOLUTION

CD41.R15

STRENGTHENING BLOOD BANKS IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

THE 41ST DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that the transfusion of blood products is a medical procedure performed for the treatment of patients with serious illness or emergencies that cannot be treated by other means;

Affirming that is the inescapable responsibility of the health systems and services to guarantee the efficient processing, adequate supply, and timely delivery of blood products that pose the minimum possible risk to the patients who receive them; and

Taking into account that the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections is higher when blood products come from remunerated or replacement donors, rather than volunteer, nonremunerated, and repeat donors,

RESOLVES

1. To urge Member States to:

(a) give higher priority in their national health policies to the safety of blood for transfusion;

(b) promote the development of national blood programs and transfusion services, based on the voluntary, nonremunerated, and repeated donation of blood, as one indicator of the human development of the population, and on quality assurance;

(c) strengthen the national blood bank infrastructure in order to implement the national blood programs;

(d) ensure the appropriate allocation and efficient use of resources for the acquisition of safe blood products and their use in the population that needs them;

(d) ensure training of medical providers in appropriate clinical use of blood products.

2. To request that the Director:

(a) cooperate with the Member States in strengthening the national blood programs and transfusion services, with the collaboration of international institutions, especially in the mobilization of financial resources;

(b) assist in the strengthening of national programs for voluntary, nonremunerated, repeated blood donation;

(c) establish regional standards for the quality of blood banks and transfusion services, as well as for the blood products used in transfusions;

(d) promote universal, accurate, and efficient screening of the units of blood donated in the Region;

(e) document the progress of the national blood programs.

(Ninth meeting, 1 October 1999)