

Committee room B – Pillar 04

Agenda Item 27.1 Availability, Safety and Quality of blood products

Agenda Item 27.2 Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation

Agenda item 27.3 Traditional Medicine

SRI LANKA

Thank you Chair,

Sri Lanka notes the reports by the Director General

Sri Lanka has been one of the first countries in the region to develop a National Blood Policy. There are 105 Hospital Based Blood Banks & 2 standalone Blood Centers affiliated to 24 cluster centers depending on the geographic distribution supervised by Consultant Transfusion Physician

National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) continues to maintain a 100% voluntary blood donor base from low-risk population which is adequate for the island wide blood and blood component requirement.

Well trained administrative, medical officers and technical staff of the NBTS maintain the safety and the quality of the whole system. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) & guidelines which are reviewed periodically are available for the entire transfusion chain.

Registration of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors are done by an online system 'BBMS'. NBTS has established a system to assess blood stocks in blood Banks Island wide using Blood Bank management system (BBMS) and blood stocks monitoring system.

To maintain the trust between donors and the transfusion service, strict confidentiality is maintained during donor selection and referral. There is a well-established donor notification and referral system for protection of both donor and recipients.

Apheresis platelet donation & HLA typed Platelet donations are performed according to the specific needs of the patients. NBTS has prepared guidelines & SOPs for the clinical use of blood and practice of Massive Transfusion Protocol in order to improve patient safety. Use of Thermolectrometry to manage massive transfusions has been effective in minimizing unnecessary use of blood and blood products in an emergency.

Committee room B – Pillar 04

Agenda Item 27.1 Availability, Safety and Quality of blood products

Agenda Item 27.2 Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation

Agenda item 27.3 Traditional Medicine

SRI LANKA

All donations are tested for transfusion-transmissible infections (TTI). Donations positive for TTIs are discarded according to the universal precautions guidelines and donors are guided for needful treatments and follow up.

Sri Lanka has developed in the field of Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation recently via a team from the National Cancer Institute (Apeksha Hospital) including Blood Bank Staff were trained at the St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia on stem cell transplantation.

First stem cell collection from a patient diagnosed with multiple myeloma was carried out and first patient was transplanted in 2016. The number of patients treated, Stem cell collection and cryopreservation procedures conducted, infusion transplantation procedures conducted have doubled since 2017 to 2021.

First allogenic stem cell transplantation in a government hospital in Sri Lanka was carried out in 2022 at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo.

To cater to the growing demand for HSCT in Sri Lanka, National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) has taken steps to set-up stem cell processing facilities at the National Blood Centre and at Apeksha Hospital blood bank. In addition, NBTS has taken steps to set up a cord blood processing and storage facility at the National Blood Centre.

Sri Lanka has made considerable progress in traditional medicine

As mentioned in the important outcomes of the Colombo Declaration, Sri Lanka has already established national education and training programs, accreditation, and licensing procedures for educational institutions and TM practitioners.

Sri Lankan TM system is aligned with WHO's Global Traditional and Complementary Medicine Strategy 2014–2023.

Committee room B – Pillar 04

Agenda Item 27.1 Availability, Safety and Quality of blood products

Agenda Item 27.2 Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation

Agenda item 27.3 Traditional Medicine

SRI LANKA

According to the strategic objective of WHO Strategy 2014-2023 and resolution WHA67.18 Sri- Lanka has started to develop comprehensive traditional medicine (TM) policy at the national level through the WHO action plan. The traditional policy will be formulated in 2022 with the guidance of WHO and all relevant stakeholders.

Sri Lanka has a legal and regulatory framework to a certain extent in the Traditional Medicine system.

At present Sri-Lankan traditional medicine system is successfully engaged in primary health care. The significant increase in the regulation of traditional medicine products, practices, and practitioners has created better conditions in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, we haven't a national plan for integrating traditional medicine services into the health care delivery system and still, traditional medicine in Sri-Lanka is not covered by health insurance (both private and public).

When we consider the present scenario in Sri- Lanka is still facing challenges such as a lack of research data, financial support, mechanisms to monitor the safety of TRM practice, and mechanisms to monitor and regulate TM providers and products.

We acknowledge the support of the WHO and we hope WHO will strongly support Sri Lanka in future initiatives in relation to PHC through TM system which will help in achieving SDGs and UHC.

We look forward to the participation of member countries in this global endeavor.
Thank you

Committee room B – Pillar 04

Agenda Item 27.1 Availability, Safety and Quality of blood products

Agenda Item 27.2 Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation

Agenda item 27.3 Traditional Medicine

SRI LANKA