

SCREENING OF ALL BLOOD UNITS FOR HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (HBSAG), HUMAN IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) ANTIBODY, MALARIA & SYPHILIS

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The transmission of infectious agents is one hazard of blood transfusion. Pursuant to the Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Collection, Processing of Blood and the Operation and Maintenance of Blood Banks (A.O. #57, s. 1989), the Technical Standards (Bureau Order No. 5, s. 1990) require careful screening of blood by history and laboratory testing for HBsAg, HIV antibody, malarial parasites and syphilis.

It is the policy of the Department of health that all units of blood and blood products shall be screened for the following prior to issuance of blood for transfusion:

1. Malarial parasites
2. Serological tests for syphilis
3. Hepatitis B Surface Antigen
4. Human Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody

The methods to be used should be in accordance with the guidance in the Technical Standards for the Collection and Processing of blood and blood products.

No unit of blood and blood product shall be issued by a Blood Bank (Collecting Agency) to a hospital or other transfusion facility unless the unit had been found to be negative for the above mentioned tests, and therefore suitable for blood transfusion.

Primary and Secondary Categories of Blood Banks who do not have the capability for HBsAg/HIV antibody testing may refer such examinations to any licensed and/or accredited laboratory or blood bank.

Adopted: 1 July 1990

(SGD.) TOMAS P. MARAMBA, JR.
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