

Universal access to safe blood transfusion has been the World Health Organization (WHO) global strategic plan since 1975. This strategy leads to access to safe blood transfusion and provide advocacy on its role in the provision of effective health, quality and efficacious blood and blood products transfusion, the safe and appropriate use of blood products, and also ensuring blood donor and patient safety. The program provides up-to-date information and evidence-based strategies on blood safety and availability to governments and stakeholders. Data on the use of blood products are limited, but studies suggest that blood products are often overprescribed in both developed and developing countries. WHO recommends for the safe and rational use of blood to reduce unnecessary and unsafe transfusions and to improve patient outcomes and safety, thus minimizing the risk of adverse events including errors, transfusion reactions and transmission of infections. All countries have designed some recommendation and national guidelines for appropriate use of blood and blood products to decrease shortage, adverse reactions, and increase their safety. Iran has a successful program to prepare safe blood by 100% voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. The program on patient blood management (PBM) is fundamental in the appropriate use of blood, but there are many barriers on its implementation.

Haemovigilance is required to identify and prevent occurrence or recurrence of transfusion related unwanted events, to increase the safety, efficacy and efficiency of blood transfusion, covering all activities of the transfusion chain from donor to recipient.

The system should include monitoring, identification, reporting, investigation and analysis of adverse events, near-misses and reactions related to transfusion and manufacturing. Effectiveness of such systems should be measured not only by data reporting and analysis, but by the use of such systems to improve patients' safety.

Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization (IBTO) has implemented haemovigilance and patient blood management services for appropriate use of blood and blood products but we might need revised national and local guidelines to manage blood utilization and to decrease the blood wastage.

Mohammad Faranoush, MD

Associate professor

Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist