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Health sciences and the development of Transfusion Medicine – An international perspective.**Cees Th. Smit Sibinga, Yetmgeta E. Abdella***IQM Consulting and University of Groningen, Netherlands**Access to Medicines and Health Technologies, WHO EMRO, Cairo, Egypt*

Global blood safety and healthcare development programs have created a substantial body of methods to address the gaps observed, and contributed to the development of Transfusion Medicine, strengthening and integrating existing blood supply and consumption systems into national healthcare structures.

Resources include:

1. Assessment techniques and methodologies derived from documented field-based observations;
 2. Focused Health Sciences oriented research projects in poor economics;
 3. A growing evidence-base in the scientific and "gray" literature on best practices and other strategies to address the technical and policy gaps;
 4. Principles and ethical guidelines for blood donation and transfusion;
 5. The World Health Assembly and WHO Executive Board Resolutions and Recommendations (since 1975);
 6. Strategies to link blood safety goals to broader development objectives, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG, 2000-2015), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG, 2016-2030), the UN Universal Human Rights Declaration (1948), the Universal Health Coverage program (2012), the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines, in vitro Diagnostics and Medical Devices, and WHO Action Plans and Strategic frameworks including the 2021-2030 Global Patient Safety Action Plan 'Towards Eliminating Avoidable Harm in Health Care'.
- Countries initiating the process to strengthen their blood service (procurement and clinical use) may benefit from this growing knowledge base initiated through Health Sciences oriented research on how to develop evidence-based transfusion medicine 'vein-to-vein', integrating in the healthcare structure and eliminating avoidable harm to patients.

Biography

Cees Th. Smit Sibinga, MD, PhD, FRCP Edin, FRCPPath is clinical haematologist and specialist of Transfusion Medicine. Professor of International Development of Transfusion Medicine at the University Medical Centre Groningen and University of Groningen. Has been and still is involved in the development of Transfusion Medicine and quality systems and management for economically restricted (poor economics) countries since 1980 through his work with World Health Organization (WHO), World Federation of Haemophilia (WFH) and International Consortium for Blood Safety (ICBS). Publications: around 400 peer reviewed papers, 35 books, and countless peer reviewed scientific abstracts. Medical Director of Sanquin Division Blood Bank Noord Nederland, Groningen, Netherlands for 28 years (1976-2004).

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