Africa Society for Blood Transfusion Step-Wise Accreditation Programme

Submitted by: Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT)
AFRICA SOCIETY for BLOOD TRANSFUSION STEP-WISE ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

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On Behalf of Africa Society for Blood Transfusion
2d APEC Blood Supply Chain Policy Forum
Anaheim, CA October 23, 2015

AfSBT

A non-profit company organized in 1997 and registered in SA in 2011
Programs:
- Scientific journal, *Africa Sanguine*, two times per year
- Biennial Congresses
- Website with information and educational materials
- *Standards and Accreditation program*
Twelve Member Board of Directors

• Past-President, President, President-Elect (non-executive)
• Chairs elected by the Regions (organizational structures) who serve ex-officio as Vice Presidents of the five regions:
  - ECOWAS
  - RAFTS
  - SADC
  - EAC
  - Mahgreb
• Executive Directors who serve in Management Office
• Additional elected board members who serve without portfolio

“Virtual” Management Office

• Managing Director
• Programmes Manager
• Education Manager
• Accreditation Program Officer
• Communications Officer
• Website Manager
• Administrative Officer
Why Standards and Accreditation?

To achieve the objective of empowering blood services in African countries to attain an internationally recognized quality and technical accreditation through a standardized process.

Why Standards and Accreditation?

Measurable and objective improvements to quality and safety

- The standard provides the ‘yardstick’
- Every assessed facility is measured against the same ‘yardstick’ (standard)
- Standards are benchmarked against internationally recognized technical and quality expectations
Why Standards and Accreditation?

Based on internationally recognized but locally relevant standards

- Objective is to provide sufficient safe blood to patients and to safeguard donors who provide this precious resource
- Locally relevant and not simply imported from Standards applicable to high-HDI countries and regions

Why Standards and Accreditation?

Compliance verified by AfSBT as a third party expert

- Role of AfSBT is to be the accrediting body
- Role of AfSBT is to be impartial
- Role of AfSBT is to consistently measure against the documented Standards and never to bend the rules to compromise the Standards
Structure of Programme: Evolution of Concept

- Original concept: an accreditation programme with progressing levels of achievement defined in three separate sets of requirements
- Eventual recognition that the programme must be based on a single set of requirements against which accreditation is measured

Structure of Programme

Restructured into one set of Standards that contain requirements

- Distinct sections, starting with Quality System as Section 1
- Other sections deal with all aspects of vein to vein blood transfusion (donor mobilisation and qualification, testing of donor and patient blood, component production, storage, distribution and blood administration)
Structure of Programme

Section 11, National Blood Service Accreditation Requirements contains additional requirements if entire national blood programme is to be accredited in recognition of the fact that individual accredited facilities may not be in control of important safety issues:

- 100% VNRBD throughout the country
- Sufficiency of national supply

Structure of Programme

Three levels of compliance with standards, based on objective evidence
Charts of compliance measure the degree of compliance in Steps One, Two and Three
**Step-Wise Concept**

**Step 1:**
*Minimum quality and operational requirements*

**Step 2:**
*Intermediate quality and operational requirements*

**Step 3:**
*Full accreditation at an international standard*

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**Examples of 3-step approach**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-risk donations</td>
<td>Low-risk populations identified Time-based plan for 100% VNRBD</td>
<td>In addition to step 1: At least 75% VNRBD Number of regular (repeat) donors meet facility plan</td>
<td>In addition to steps 1 and 2: 100% VNRBD Number of regular donors maintained and showing increasing trend</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step One: The Highest Accreditation Level
Compliance with Step 3 = International Accreditation

- Step 1
- Step 2
- Step 3

Step Two: The Second Level Certification
Compliance with Step 2 = International Certification

- Step 1
- Step 2
- Step 3
Step One = The First Level Certification

Compliance with Step 1 = International Certification

Structure of Programme

• Applying facilities submit application with facility data and results of a self-assessment using the Charts of Compliance
• Accreditation Program Office, working with applicant facility, determines appropriate level of accreditation/certification application
• Assessors are assigned based on activities and locations; all assessments led by a trained lead assessor, currently provided by AABB with PEPFAR support
Programme Tools: Glossary

- To assist in understanding defined terms used throughout the Standards

Programme Tools: Charts of Compliance

- Charts of Compliance measure the degree of compliance with the requirements
- Can be used by the facility to understand appropriate level of accreditation and determine readiness
Programme Tools: Guidance

- Not provided for every standard
- Generally aimed at full level of accreditation (Step 3) recognizing universal implementation may not be possible
- Facilities that implement best practices are considered to be in compliance, but may also develop a different way of meeting the referenced standard.

Programme Tools: Document Templates

- Generic SOPs
- Record and Form Templates
Progress to Date

• Pilot Site Assessments in Namibia and Malawi successfully validated the assessment tools
  – Documentation: improved and finalised
• Assessor training in 2014 created a cadre of assessors who are ready to participate as trainee assessors
  – Also resulted in important clarifications to specific standards

Progress to Date

• AfSBT is applying for certification as an accrediting body through the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (IsQua)
• Currently working with AABB, through PEPFAR-funded assistance, to prepare for the application process and assessment
Challenges

• Diversity among African countries
• The need to accommodate three official languages: French, Portuguese, English
• Access to reliable communication to facilitate sharing of educational tools and opportunities to convene
• Geography
• Diversity of education and training opportunities within countries

Challenges

• Securing government commitment to blood safety, given competing health priorities
• Lack of competent (regulatory) authorities
• Lack of access to reliable suppliers
• How to include transfusing facilities in the accreditation chain
Strengths

- Committed professionals at all levels of the transfusion chain
- Diversity of experience and opinion which strengthens the standards and facilitates their adoption
- The compelling need for safe blood that is accessible and affordable to all patients in need.
AfSBT wishes to thank its partners

ICCBA      BBTS
ISBT       NBI
CDC/AABB   ZINQAP
ISBT       WHO

National Blood Service Zimbabwe
www.afsbt.org