

# Approach to Current and Emerging Infectious Pathogens Blood Organizations' Approach

**Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability  
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# **AABB Committees and Task Forces**

## **Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Committee**

- **Monitors existing and emergent issues**
- **Develops proposed position statements**
- **Makes recommendations to AABB Board and other committees on discrete issues**
- **Includes liaisons from ABC, ARC, CDC, FDA, CAP**

# **Interorganizational Task Forces**

- **Convened to address scientific and operational issues associated with specific problems**
- **Develop information and recommendations to community**
- **Include representatives from interested organizations**
- **AABB provides staff support**

# **AABB Committees and Task Forces**

## **(Cont.)**

### **Blood Bank and Transfusion Service Standards Committee**

- **Develops appropriate standards (requirements) relating to specific issues**
- **Includes liaisons from ACOG, ARC, CDC, FDA, DoD, State of California**

# **AABB Communication Vehicles**

## **AABB Association Bulletins**

- **Advise members on AABB policy and guidances**
- **Provide information updates**
- **Communicate interim standards**
- **Reviewed annually for relevance**

## **AABB Pulse Points**

- **Rapid communication vehicle for subscribers**

# **AABB Communication Vehicles**

**(Cont.)**

## **AABB Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services**

- **Published requirements for accreditation**
- **Distributed to all AABB institutional members**

# **America's Blood Centers (ABC)**

## **Infectious Disease not Considered an Emergency**

- **Staff in Scientific, Medical, Technical (SMT) department monitor events and distribute relevant information to**
  - **ABC Officers**
  - **SMT committee**
  - **SMT and Quality Forums**
  - **CEO of member centers**

# ABC

## Committees

- Review issues
  - Set priorities
  - Propose ABC comments positions and actions
  - Organize conference calls to discuss potential threats
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- Committee recommendations are developed by SMT staff and distributed to membership for comments



# **ABC**

- **A final document defining ABC's position is produced for presentation by liaisons to AABB committees and at official meetings (BPAC, HHS, ACBSA, public hearings)**
- **Liaisons coordinate activities with AABB Task Forces**
- **As new information becomes available, the same process occurs**

# **America's Blood Centers**

## **Infectious Disease Considered an Emergency**

- **SMT staff develop a proposed policy and submit to ABC Officers for input**
- **Preliminary ABC position developed within 24-48 hours**
- **Liaisons coordinate actions with AABB Task Forces**
- **Preliminary position submitted for review by ABC committees and forums as well as the entire ABC membership**
- **Final position developed and revised using the same process**

# American Red Cross (ARC)

- Participates with FDA, CDC, and industry work groups through the medical office and Holland Laboratory representatives.
- Urgent or acute threats to the blood supply managed internally through the development of dedicated taskforces including medical, scientific, operational and regulatory staff.

# **American Red Cross**

- **Prospective active surveillance primarily through the Holland Laboratory. Approaches include:**
  - **Literature Review**
  - **Laboratory Investigation**
  - **Seroprevalence studies**
  - **Review by expert (“blue ribbon”) panel**
- **Permanent Medical/Scientific Advisory Council of “outside” experts being established**
- **New test implementation managed through the Scientific Support Office of the National Testing and Reference Laboratories (NTRL)**

# Overall Approach

- Coordination
- Staff communication
- Partnership with government agencies