

Blood Safety

- In Goa, there are in all Six blood banks - three under the State Government and three under private sector.
- All the blood banks under the State Government i.e. those attached to the Goa Medical College and the two District Hospitals viz. Hospicio Hospital, Margao and District Hospital, Mapusa have been modernized and suitably strengthened with requisite blood bank equipments, trained manpower, consumables, chemicals and other infrastructure.
- Testing of every unit of blood for detecting infections for diseases like Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and Malaria apart from testing for HIV has been made mandatory to ensure that only safe blood is released for transfusion as per the National Blood Safety Policy. For this purpose, necessary kits, equipment, reagents, glassware and blood bags are supplied to the above three blood banks by Goa State AIDS Control Society.
- Goa State Blood Transfusion Council (GSBTC) has been set up to oversee blood transfusion services and ensure effective implementation of the programme and better management of blood banking services at State/District levels.
- Professional donors have been totally banned in Goa and efforts are being made to gradually phase out replacement donors and achieve 100% voluntary donation programme. Voluntary donation has increased from 28.7% in 2000 to 79% in 2017.
- Regular blood donors and NGOs who organize blood donation camps on a regular basis are felicitated by the Goa State Blood Transfusion Council at a State level function organized on Voluntary Blood Donation Day i.e. 1st October in recognition of their contribution.
- Replacement donors are being motivated to become regular voluntary donors. Young people are being encouraged to form voluntary blood donation clubs in colleges, etc.
- Sustained awareness campaigns to educate and motivate people to donate blood voluntarily using various media are being undertaken.
- A Blood Component Separation Unit (BCSU) has been set up at Goa Medical College in October 2002, which helps proper and optimal clinical use of blood for transfusion and also improves availability of adequate blood components and their use instead of whole blood.
- The NACP-III goal of reducing blood borne transmission of HIV to less than 1% by the end of the project has been achieved. The percentage of HIV infection through blood and blood products ranges from 0 to 0.5% in Goa compared to about 3% in India.
- In order to achieve 100% voluntary blood donation NACO has provided two Blood Transportation Vans for blood collection purpose for the hinterland of the State.
- There are two Regional Blood Transfusion Centres in the State of Goa. One at Goa Medical College, (Model Blood Bank) Bambolim, Tiswadi, in North Goa District is North Goa Regional Transfusion Centre and the other at Hospicio Hospital, (Major Blood Bank) Margao in South Goa District is South Goa Regional Transfusion Centre

- In light of the expansion and establishment of new blood bank facilities, it is necessary to develop in-built systems to ensure quality of testing, storing, component separation, transfusions and other blood related services. To ensure provision of quality blood and other related services, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune has been identified and established as the nodal agency for implementation of External Quality Assurance (EQAS) in the State.

At district level, the district and sub-district hospitals have to identify a Quality Assurance Officer who will be responsible for coordination with the Blood Transfusion Committee in the hospital and has to assess realistic estimates of blood & blood components requirement. She/he will be in-charge to ensure the compliance of EQAS in the given Institution.

Under the EQAS programme, the State of Goa has one State Reference Laboratory (SRL). The activities of SRL will be according to the national plan for EQAS as prepared by NACO.