AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 433
(A-23)

Introduced by: Texas

Subject: Upholding Scientifically and Medically Valid Practices for Blood Transfusions

Referred to: Reference Committee D

Whereas, Current authorized and emergency-use vaccinations for prevention of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection in the U.S. have been well studied and shown to have no risk for the community blood supply; and

Whereas, 79% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and

Whereas, In 2019, there were 10,852,000 red blood cell transfusions, 2,243,000 platelet transfusions, and 2,185,000 plasma transfusions in the U.S.; and

Whereas, Blood components are not labeled with health or demographic information about donors to protect their privacy; and

Whereas, Regulation of blood component labeling is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, not state or local authorities; and

Whereas, Recently, a growing number of individuals have requested hospitals and blood centers to provide blood for transfusion for their personal use from donors who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination because of incorrect information that the vaccine will harm them through the transfusion; and

Whereas, Providing blood for transfusion from donors who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination is not medically indicated, and there is no scientific evidence that demonstrates adverse outcomes from the transfusions of blood products collected from vaccinated donors; and

Whereas, Some state legislatures are now considering laws mandating medical facilities to provide blood from donors who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination; and

Whereas, Allowing broad and unscientific requests for exclusion of certain blood products will place a substantial burden on blood banks, impacting the timely delivery of those products to patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support scientifically and medically supported transfusion best practices (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA discourage patient requests for blood products and components beyond current federal regulations or best-practice guidelines, including requests to exclude products from individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccines New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA oppose all legislation or policy mandating patient requests for blood products from specific donors. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

Received: 5/24/23

REFERENCES

1. Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies, America's Blood Centers, American Red Cross. Joint Statement: Blood Community Reiterates the Safety of America's Blood Supply for Patients. Jan. 27, 2023. https://americasblood.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Joint-Statement-Blood-Community-Reiterates-the-Safety-of-Americas-Blood-Supply-for-Patients.pdf

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Blood for Medical Use H-50.996

(1) Blood transfusions and the use of other bodily tissues or substances or biological substances in rendering medical care to patients are often essential to save the life of a patient or to protect his health. Protecting the welfare of patients requires that blood for transfusions and bodily tissues or substances and biological substances be available and that use when needed be encouraged and not burdened with unreasonable restrictions and increased costs.

(2) When liability for damages in the absence of negligence is imposed following injury resulting from the administration of blood transfusions, bodily tissues or substances or biological substances, the cost of medical care is increased and inevitably the availability of medical care is adversely affected.

(3) The public interest requires and the state medical associations are urged to seek the enactment of appropriate state legislation which will provide that any person or organization involved in the collection, processing, distribution, or administration of blood or other bodily tissues or substances or biological substances for medical use shall be liable for any injury suffered by a patient only if the injury was proximately caused by the negligence of such person or organization.
Citation: BOT Rep. M, I-70; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. C, A-89; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, A-00; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-10; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-20;