

## Special Article

# Haemovigilance Programme of India : Strengthening Blood Transfusion Safety

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The Haemovigilance Programme of India (HvPI), launched in December 2012, is implemented by the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), NOIDA, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Serving as the National Coordinating Centre (NCC), HvPI aims to monitor, report, investigate, and analyze adverse reactions related to blood transfusion and donation across India.

To date, **1,728** blood centres have enrolled under HvPI, and over **80,000** adverse reaction reports have been submitted via the Haemovigilance software. Although reporting is currently voluntary, the data collected helps formulate expert-led guidelines and recommendations to improve transfusion safety nationwide which are freely available on NIB Website [nib.gov.in](http://nib.gov.in)

HvPI also focuses on capacity building. It has conducted 86 Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programmes, Workshops and Webinars, training over **16,400** healthcare professionals. The participants have predominantly been from blood centres, including medical officers, nurses, technical staff, as well as blood donors and motivators. Moving forward, we aim to enhance collaboration with our clinical colleagues, who play a critical role in recognizing bedside transfusion reactions and promptly reporting them to the blood centres. Strengthening this partnership is essential for improving patient safety and transfusion outcomes.

A **toll-free helpline (1800-180-2588)** is available to provide assistance and answer queries related to the programme.

Blood centres can enroll in HvPI free of cost by submitting the required enrolment form, available at <https://nib.gov.in/media/Annexure7.pdf> either by post to NIB, NOIDA or via email at [haemovigilance@nib.gov.in](mailto:haemovigilance@nib.gov.in).

HvPI has also developed a key reference document, "**Good Blood Transfusion Practices – Guidance for Rational Use of Blood**", available at <https://nib.gov.in/media/Good%20Blood%20Transfusion%20Practices%20Guidance.pdf>, to support rational and safe blood use.

Active clinician participation and increased reporting serves as a critical tool in ensuring patient safety and improving clinical outcomes in transfusion medicine. By actively reporting adverse transfusion reactions, clinicians contribute to a national database that enhances protocols, and reduces preventable risks. Participation in HvPI not only reinforces a culture of continuous learning but also empowers clinicians with data-driven insights to make safer, more informed decisions. Embracing this programme is a step toward advancing quality care and safeguarding the well-being of every patient receiving blood transfusion therapy.

**Haemovigilance Programme of India (HvPI)** looks forward to a collaborative partnership with the **prestigious Indian Medical Association (IMA)** to enhance the safety and quality of blood transfusion practices across the country.

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