The AfSBT Accreditation Programme – Achievements and Future Plans

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The Role of AfSBT in Accreditation

- To be the accrediting body
- To be the custodian of the *Standards*
- To maintain a cadre of qualified and experienced assessors in Africa
- To seek funding from international agencies to assist in keeping the programme affordable
- To provide training and assistance to facilities seeking accreditation
Setting the *Standards*

- Team of international experts to draft *Standards*
- Guidance from the AABB team of experts, drawing on their own resources (AABB Standards)

References-
- ISO Quality Standards
- WHO aide-mémoires related to blood safety
Setting the *Standards*

- Council of Europe – Guide to the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components
- European Blood Inspection System – Standards and Criteria for the Inspection of Blood Establishments
- Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK
- Standards for the Practice of Blood Transfusion in South Africa *(and others)*
- Placed on the Internet for public view and comment

MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR SETTING HIGH STANDARDS.
Setting the *Standards*

One set of *Standards* - written to express international requirements

Meeting the Standards is a progression – 3 Steps

- **Step 1:** Certification: minimum (basic) quality and operational requirements
- **Step 2:** Certification: intermediate quality and operational requirements
- **Step 3:** Accreditation at international standard

*I am Great and everyone knows it*
Programme Outline

AfSBT Standards consist of 11 Sections –

1. Quality
2. Blood donor management
3. Collection of blood from donors
4. Handling, transportation and storage
5. Testing of donated blood
6. Blood component production
Programme Outline
AfSBT Standards consist of 11 Sections –

7. Receipt, ordering, selection and/or issuing of blood
8. Compatibility testing
9. Haemovigilance and the clinical interface
10. Blood administration
11. National Blood Service accreditation requirements
Example – Step-Wise Progression

- Blood shall be collected from healthy, voluntary non-remunerated donors, in populations identified by the facility to be at low-risk for transfusion transmitted infections.

Step 1
- Plan to progress towards 100% VNRBD

Step 2
- At least 75% of donations from VNRBD

Step 3
- 100% of donations from VNRBD
Assessments may be conducted at facility level or national level.

Assessment or certification valid for three years.
10 Assessors from 19 African Countries trained in 2014
Progress in Implementation
3 Countries have been assessed
10 Countries are registered for the accreditation programme
Lessons learned

• Accreditation is new and “foreign” to many facilities
• Some Standards need to be clarified
• Pre-assessment evaluations are often poorly done
• There is a great need for training and advocacy before initiating the programme
• Technical assistance and guidance is often required while preparing for accreditation
Where to from here?

- Creation of two separate divisions within AfSBT
  - Education and Training
  - Accreditation
- Full review of the *Standards* scheduled for 2016
- Translation of all documents into French
- Development of “generic” quality documents
Where to from here?

- Development of Internet based education and training
- Conducting more pre-assessment evaluations
- Conducting more accreditation/certification assessments
- Obtain accreditation for the Accreditation Programme
- Development of a programme to ensure sustainability
Thank you for your attention!