


**THE DEVELOPMENT OF STEP
WISE ACCREDITATION FROM
THE AFRICA SOCIETY
PESPECTIVE**

**BRIDON M'BAYA
MALAWI**



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BACKGROUND





BACKGROUND

- Before 1994 not much was known about the quality of blood services in Africa
 - The WHO afro region noted that *'only 10 of 44 WHO-Afro region countries could guarantee the safety of blood transfusion in their countries'*.
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BACKGROUND

It passed resolution AFR/RC44/R12 which urged member countries to

‘take urgent steps to enact blood safety policies and mobilise resources for the development of the infrastructure of blood services in their countries’¹.



BACKGROUND

- This coupled with other declarations increased attention and funding for blood services on the Continent with positive results
 - In 2006 a report on the Status of Blood Safety in the WHO African region notes that
'some progress has been made while significant challenges still remain'
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BACKGROUND

This means that

- Blood Services in Africa are at different levels of development
 - Some are comparable to the developed world
 - Others are very basic with just hospital blood banks
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CHALLENGES

- Some of the key challenges facing blood services include:
 - Unsustainable funding
 - Lack of knowledge and skills
 - Lack of policies, regulatory framework
 - No documented local standards, no regulatory body leading to majority of blood services being self-regulating
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BACKGROUND

It is in response to this challenge and in recognition of the different levels of development of African Blood Services that the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) embarked on the Stepwise accreditation program



THE AfSBT

- The AfSBT is an association of professionals with an interest in blood transfusion in Africa.
- It was established in 1997 and is registered in South Africa.
- The active membership of the AfSBT in 2011 was at 230, from 24 countries



THE AfSBT

The objectives of the Society are to

- promote and maintain the highest level of ethical and professional standards in order to achieve safe and cost effective national blood programmes in Africa;
 - contribute to the advancement of knowledge; provide opportunities for the discussion and presentation of research and development;
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THE AfSBT

- exchange information among its members;
- act as a resource centre accessible to blood services or national governments;
- encourage regional collaborative programmes to deal with issues such as manpower development, donor recruitment, and blood safety.



THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- The Standards were prepared by a sub-group of the Task Team for Accreditation established by the AfSBT.
 - The standards are both quality and technical in nature and were initially based on the WHO Aide Memoire for Blood Safety.
 - They are based on input from a variety of sources- AfSBT and AABB members and recognized experts.
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THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- The development process started in 2009 and will be completed by the end of 2013 with copyright licencing
- The content in the Standards, with the exception of Section 1 (Quality System), which is licensed from AABB, is copyrighted by AfSBT, and remains the intellectual property of AfSBT.



THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- There is one set of standards with 3 progressively more rigorous steps (levels) of achievement as follows:
 - Step 1: Minimum quality and operational requirements
 - Step 2: Intermediate quality and operational requirements
 - Step 3: Full accreditation at international standard
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THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- The standards have 11 sections ranging from legal, organisational and quality issues to the whole blood transfusion chain from vein to vein.
 - Although the Standards are stated in a single document, there are stepped requirements for each level and these are well articulated in the accompanying documentation..
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THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Standard	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<p>Responsibility for the activities detailed in these Standards shall be assigned to individuals and these individuals may be responsible for more than one activity. Some activities may be delegated to another entity provided the terms of delegated authority and responsibility are clearly defined.</p>	<p>Organogram exists</p>	<p>Organogram exists Organogram is reviewed at defined intervals Organogram is updated as required</p>	<p>Organogram exists The organogram shows a clear delineation of responsibilities, accountability and interrelationships Delegation authority is defined as well as those that may be designees</p>



THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- The Standards apply to blood services or individual facilities that perform any or all of the following functions:
 - mobilization of blood donors;
 - collection of blood;
 - processing of blood into blood products;
 - testing of blood
 - pre-transfusion/ compatibility testing and
 - the storage, handling, transportation and distribution of blood and blood products.
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THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- In some cases, activities such as compatibility testing and oversight of transfusion activities are not the responsibility of the blood transfusion service and are outside of the control of the blood service.
 - In these cases, the corresponding requirements do not apply.
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THE AFSBT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

- For full accreditation at an international standard (i.e. step 3) the blood service must also comply with the requirements described in the last section (11) of the Standards.
 - This section deals with legal and regulatory requirements, blood supply, equipment and supplies, financial sustainability and the appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products
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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

- Clarifies and enhances understanding of the requirements of some of the standards.
 - Not every standard is explained in the Guidance Document as some standards are straight forward/ clear and do not need additional explanation to ensure understanding.
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TRAINING

- In some African countries, lack of knowledge and skills in quality-related and technical matters compromises attempts to improve practices and meet AfSBT Standards.
 - To address this issue, AfSBT has developed a multinational training committee, tasked with establishing a support system to coordinate and address identified training needs for blood services in Africa.
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PILOTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- The standards were piloted in Namibia and Malawi.
 - The Namibia piloting was completed in 2012 while the Malawi piloting will be completed in 2013.
 - Comments from these pilot sites have provided valuable input into the standards development process.
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PILOTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Next implementation steps include
 - Finalise the process of copyright licensing
 - Complete translation into French and Portuguese,
 - Training of a pool of auditors and
 - Developing the capacity of the AfSBT to become an accrediting body.
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CONCLUSION

- Stepwise accreditation program is relevant in encouraging improvements for developing blood transfusion services.
 - Accreditation standards need to be commensurate with local needs while safeguarding the safety of blood donors and patients.
 - Training is very important in helping developing blood transfusion services attain accreditation status.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- I acknowledge the contributions of AABB, members of the Accreditation Committee of AfSBT and the Task Team for documentation, and
 - The committed leadership of Mrs Beryl Armstrong, the Programmes Director of AfSBT, for success in the development and establishment of the programme.
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