

Press Release

Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, carried out **surprise raids at nine blood banks in Hyderabad as part of a special drive.**

Risk-based inspections were conducted without prior notice at nine blood centers on 21st and 22nd February by special teams formed by the Drugs Control Administration, Telangana.

DCA officers **detected several shortcomings** during their raids at the blood banks, including lapses in blood and blood component testing, excessive charges collected by blood banks, inadequate record maintenance, and lack of calibration of certain critical equipment etc.

Show Cause Notices have been issued to nine blood banks to initiate departmental actions.

The details are as follows:

On 21st & 22nd February, Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, conducted surprise raids at nine blood banks (blood centres) in Hyderabad.

Special teams were formed to carry out **risk-based inspections** of the blood centers comprehensively, with a focus on **screening/testing** the blood collected from donors for various transmissible diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, etc. Additionally, the inspections aim to verify the **charges collected by blood banks** for whole blood and blood components such

as Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), Platelet Concentrate, Packed Red Cells, etc., testing of blood components as per the **'Guidelines issued by the Government of India in June-2022 for recovery of processing charges for blood and blood components by blood centres'**, **maintenance of registers/records** regarding blood donation, screening of blood, testing results, etc., to ensure the **maintenance of storage conditions** (temperature) for blood and components, and other regulatory requirements concerning blood centers.

Surprise raids carried out at the following Blood Banks (Blood Centres) on 21st & 22nd February, 2024:

1. Sri Balaji Blood Centre, Nalgonda X Roads, Malakpet, Hyderabad.
2. Navjeevan Blood Centre, Kamala Nagar, Chaitanyapuri, Dilsukhnagar.
3. AVS Blood Centre, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad.
4. Rudhira Voluntary Blood Centre, Liberty Road, Himayathnagar.
5. Prathima Sai Blood Centre, Old Lancer Lines, Beside Srikara Hospitals, Secunderabad.
6. Thalassemia Rakshitha Voluntary Blood Bank, Putlibowli X roads, Koti, Hyderabad.
7. Vivekananda Blood Centre, Ayodhyanagar Colony Blood Centre, Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad.
8. Nandi Blood Centre, Balanagar X Roads, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist.
9. MSN Blood Centre, Uppal X Roads, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist.

As per regulatory requirements, blood banks are mandated to conduct rigorous screening and testing of blood donors and donated blood for

infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis, and malaria, using approved screening tests and techniques.

Blood banks must follow standardized procedures for blood collection, processing, component separation, and labeling to maintain the integrity and quality of blood and blood products and must maintain suitable facilities for storage of blood and blood components viz. Fresh Frozen Plasma, Platelet Concentrate, Packed RBCs etc. ensuring proper temperature control.

Blood banks must maintain accurate records of blood donations, screening and testing results, inventory management etc. as per regulatory requirements.

During the special raids, DCA officers detected lapses in the screening/testing of the blood at certain blood centers. For instance, AVS Blood Centre, Lakdikapul and Vivekananda Blood Centre, Mehdipatnam, failed to submit reconciliations to demonstrate that the 'testing kits' required to carry out tests for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, etc., were actually procured and consumed for blood bags issued by the Blood Bank.

Certain blood banks are collecting excessive charges on whole human blood and its components, such as Single Donor Platelets, Platelet Concentrate, Fresh Frozen Plasma, Packed Red Cells, etc., without adhering to the 'guidelines' issued by the Government of India for the charges to be collected by blood banks.

For instance, Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) shall be issued for Rs. 400/- as per the guidelines, whereas Sri Balaji Blood Centre, Malakpet, collected Rs. 1500/- and Nandi Blood Centre, Balanagar, collected Rs. 1400/-.

Platelet Concentrate shall be issued for Rs. 400/-, whereas Navjeevan Blood Centre, Chaitanyapuri, collected Rs. 1200/-.

Single Donor Platelets shall be issued for Rs. 11,000/-, whereas Sri Balaji Blood Centre, Malakpet, collected Rs. 15,000/- as a processing charge.

DCA officers also detected shortcomings with respect to the calibration of certain critical equipment. For example, data loggers connected to refrigerators and deep freezers to ensure temperature maintenance are not in working condition at Prathima Sai Blood Centre, Secunderabad.

Certain blood banks are not operating under the supervision of approved technical personnel. For instance, at Prathima Sai Blood Centre, Secunderabad, blood bank staff, including medical officer, blood bank technician, and registered nurse, are not available. Similarly, at Vivekananda Blood Centre, Medhipatnam, technical supervisor is not available.

Certain blood banks have failed to accurately maintain critical records. For instance, at AVS Blood Centre, Lakdikapul, records for screening/testing of blood collected for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, and Malaria are not being maintained. AVS Blood Centre also failed to maintain critical registers such as master record, donor record, issue register.

During surprise raids at nine blood banks, DCA officers detected several violations concerning the mandatory requirements for blood banks.

Show Cause Notices have been issued against the nine blood banks for not adhering to the norms to initiate departmental actions.

Blood banks are mandated to rigorously follow and adhere to regulatory requirements to ensure the safety and integrity of the blood supply. Surprise raids shall be intensified on blood banks (blood centres) to verify their practices. Stringent action shall be taken as per the law against violators.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL