



INSIDE ABC

ABC and Affiliates Provide Pediatric Blood Bags for Angola

America's Blood Centers, ABC member Blood Bank of Delmarva, Group Services for America's Blood Centers, and Fenwal, Inc. worked together last week to help Safe Blood for Africa provide pediatric blood bags for hospitals in Angola.

Currently, when children need a transfusion, hospital staff take a unit of blood drawn from an adult out of the cooler and then squeeze blood out of the bag directly into the child. This unit of blood is continuously used for four to five children that day and might stay out of the cooler for hours. In addition, the same needle is used for each transfusion.

Safe Blood for Africa, which is helping establish a blood program in Angola, wanted Angolan hospitals to use pediatric blood bags, thus reducing the time blood is out of the cooler, and to use a different needle for each child.

Unfortunately, when Safe Blood tried to purchase the bags, their supplier did not have them and asked ABC for help. Mike Smith, of GSABC, contacted Fenwal, which agreed to sell the pediatric bags, but could not sell directly to Safe Blood since Safe Blood did not have an account.

Enter Blood Bank of Delmarva. ABC's CFO Bill Coenen contacted Delmarva CEO Bob Travis, who agreed to purchase the bags. The bags were shipped to Angola, and the result – as seen in the picture above – is that blood bank staff in Angola now are being trained to use the bags.

“The staffs there were all very thrilled at the concept and deeply appreciative for the introduction and training,” Safe Blood CFO Robert Stern told ABC. “Thanks again for your efforts from all the children at the Benguela Province Paediatric Hospital in Angola and Safe Blood for Africa.” ♦



Diane deConing, of Safe Blood for Africa, demonstrates the use of pediatric and transfer bags at the Benguela Hospital in Angola.

Highlights of ABC's April 5, 2006 Board of Directors' Meeting

America's Blood Centers (ABC) members should contact their board representative if they have questions or want additional information on any of these topics.

ACTIONS

- A virtual job description for board members entitled “Responsibilities and Expectations of the Board of Directors” was approved.
- The board adopted ABC's Strategic Plan.

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