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| **Topic of Policy:** | **The Blood Connection Response to Mass Casualty** |
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| **I.** | **Purpose:** | To respond to a mass casualty event in an organized manner to provide blood products and sustain support for injured patients in the affected areas.  |
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| **II.** | **Application:** | This policy applies to The Blood Connection as a response to an event affecting a Hospital Partner. This TBC policy is meant to be used in conjunction with the existing policies of the affected hospitals and also the TBC COPE plan provided to all TBC staff.***NOTE: Blood products will be shipped as necessary throughout the duration of this policy. Many of the steps of this policy will be performed simultaneously.*** |
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| **III.** | **Policy:** |  |
|  | **A.** | **Evaluate Scope of Disaster**1. The scope of the disaster will be evaluated based on information provided from emergency management agencies (EMS’s) at the local, state and federal agencies involved with disaster planning.
2. If the blood provider has the advantage of forewarning (e.g., hurricane warnings), blood products will be stocked in the patient care areas ahead of time based on storage capacity.
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|  | **B.** | **Determine Lines of Communication and Delivery Points**1. TBC will determine if the hospital’s phone system is affected by the disaster and if so, identify the alternative communication options listed in the TBC COPE manual.
2. TBC will determine if the immediate hospital area(s) is considered a restricted area, and if so, determine if hospital security has approved blood deliveries.
3. If necessary, TBC will determine the location of a central staging area if an alternate delivery point is needed.
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|  | **C.** | **Assess Blood Need and Inventories**1. TBC will summarize blood assessment needs from the affected hospitals, particularly the estimated need of type O.
2. TBC will provide storage containers upon request of hospital if the hospital’s blood storage areas are insufficient or compromised.
3. TBC will determine if local blood supplies (headquarters, hub(s), and non-affected partner hospitals) will support the transfusion needs of the casualties for;
* The first 24 hours,
* Days 1-10 and
* Days 10-30
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|  | **D.** | **Continuation/Replenishment of Blood Supply** 1. TBC will ensure the continuity of inventory levels for the purpose of continuing disaster relief and/or replenishing affected inventories.
2. TBC Collections Staff will provide the public with necessary information concerning the need (or not) for blood donors.
3. TBC Hospital Services Staff will contact and import blood as necessary from the Blood Centers of America (BCA) and National Blood Exchange (NBE) members.
4. In the case of a disaster that has national impact, the AABB’s Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism is contacted and will provide a consistent message to the public and blood communities.
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|  |  **E.** | **Movement of Blood from Local Inventories to Affected Areas**1. TBC will arrange the movement of blood from pre-determined local inventories to the designated delivery locations using TBC staff, local courier companies and volunteers when necessary.
2. TBC will contact the AABB’s Task Force for help with coordinating the movement of blood if the above means are not sufficient.
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