



AUG - 3 2011

Michael G. Ison, M.D., M.S.
Chair, Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Ison:

It was a privilege to meet with the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability (ACBSA) at the June 2011 meeting. I appreciate the leadership you provide to the Committee and the thoughtful discussion of the Committee review of the World Health Assembly's resolution regarding transplantation safety and patient blood management.

The discussion and the recommendations promoting best practices in organ transplantation and eliminating human rights abuses related to organ trafficking and transplant tourism will need further coordination within the Department. As a preliminary step we have had initial discussions with the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization on these issues. The issue of availability of organs will be referred to the Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation for consideration.

As the Committee noted in the arena of patient blood management, there is a need for national professional standards on appropriate blood use. While standards and guidelines are important, these must be developed with the professional community. Data to support evidence based decisions are fundamental to this area. The Committee's recommendation that patient blood management can be obtained by establishing transfusion expertise, identifying metrics for good practices, education for medical students and practitioners on patient blood management, patient education and supporting research on non-invasive clinical measures need to be explored with the professional community.

I am forwarding the recommendations to the Secretary for internal discussion with the operating divisions of the Department. Please express to the Committee my appreciation for their service and valued recommendations. I look forward to the advancements in transplantation safety and patient blood management which will be realized in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health