

11 DEC 2014

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Crackdown on unregistered blood banks from Jan 1

By Our Correspondent
LAHORE

ADVISER to Chief Minister Punjab on Health, Khawaja Salman Rafique Wednesday said Blood Transfusion Authority has been given the task of transfusion of screened and disease-free blood to patients and crackdown will be started from January 1, 2015 against unregistered blood banks.

According to a hand-out, presiding over a meeting of Punjab Blood Transfusion Authority, the adviser issued instructions for reactivation of Punjab Blood Bank so that an authentic database of blood donors should be available for use in need.

Director General Health Dr Zahid Pervaiz, Secretary BTA Dr Jafar Saleem, Director Punjab Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) Dr Zafar Iqbal, MPA Dr Nadia Aziz, Brig. Maqool Alam of CMH Lahore, Prof Nauman Aslam of PGMI, Deputy Programme Manager of Punjab AIDs Control Programme Muhammad Faisal, representatives of Social Welfare Depart-

ment and Director General Punjab Information Technology and other officers attended the meeting.

Secretary BTA Jafar Saleem briefed the adviser that applications of 500 blood banks have received for registration and inspection of 50 blood banks has been completed.

He said that guidelines and SOPs are being provided to every applicant for establishment of standard blood bank and after inspection, action will be started for their registration. He said the BTA has provided another opportunity to blood banks through advertisements in newspapers and they should benefit from it.

The adviser directed if blood banks failed to contact the Authority for registration then action will be started against such blood banks from January 1, 2015.

He directed that meeting of BTA should be held every month for expediting implementation on the decisions.

Meanwhile, the adviser presided over a meeting to re-

view steps taken for checking the transfer of Ebola virus to Pakistan and treatment of any patient. DG Health, Principal Services Institute of Medical Sciences Prof. Hamid Butt, Airport Manager, representatives of FIA, ASF, Federal Health Department, WHO and Director Health (CDC) Dr. Afifi attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the measures taken by provincial and federal departments for checking Ebola virus. The meeting decided that one thousand more personnel protective equipments should be purchased for the protection of doctors, nurses and officials of other institutions engaged in the services for checking Ebola virus against airport staff.

Moreover, 20 thermal guns should be purchased and given to airports for the screening of passengers coming from other countries.

The meeting also reviewed in detail the steps for training of staff of the relevant departments and other administrative and technical measures.