



**DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY**  
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DHA-Policy Memorandum 24-018  
October 3, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: Policy on Walking Blood Banks in the Contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. Territories

References: (a) DoD Instruction 6480.04, "Armed Services Blood Program," January 7, 2022, as amended  
(b) Health Affairs Policy Memorandum 10-002, "Policy on the Use of Non-U.S. Food and Drug Administration Compliant Blood Products," March 19, 2010

This Defense Health Agency (DHA) Policy Memorandum, based on the authority of Reference (a), provides guidance regarding walking blood banks for emergency blood collection at military medical treatment facilities (MTF) located in the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories. This guidance does not apply to overseas facilities as directed in Reference (b).

The DoD health care policy requires beneficiaries receive medical treatment that meets or exceeds the established "standard of care." Blood transfusion products must be Food and Drug Administration-compliant. Collection of warm fresh whole blood for emergency transfusion that has not undergone regulatory testing requirements is not an FDA-compliant product. Therefore, existing or establishing walking blood banks at MTFs located in contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories is prohibited.

This DHA-Policy Memorandum is cleared for public release, available on the internet from the Health.mil site at <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Policies>, and also available to authorized users from the DHA SharePoint site at <https://info.health.mil/cos/admin/pubs/>.

Please address questions regarding this DHA-Policy Memorandum to the Armed Services Blood Program at [dha.ncr.operations-j-3.mbx.asbpd@health.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.operations-j-3.mbx.asbpd@health.mil).

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