



June 19, 2002

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Dear Dr. Juji:

I have learned that the Directors' Council of Japanese National University Hospitals has proposed that blood transfusion services and other central functions at university hospitals should be entrusted to outside commercial laboratories, and be directed by a sub-chief of a clinical department.

I know of no university hospitals in the United State or in Europe that do not have their own transfusion service managed by a full-time director. Such directors are generally specialists in transfusion medicine, and not specialists in other sections who are holding an additional position as director of a transfusion service. I believe this proposal is ill advised and inappropriate.

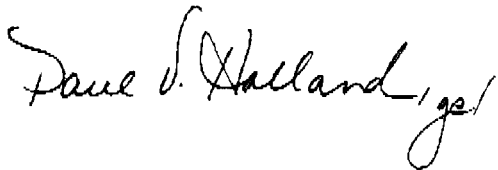
Most regulatory bodies would not condone such an arrangement. They generally prefer to see specialists in blood transfusion directing blood transfusion services, and serving as the full-time responsible heads of such departments in the United States and Europe. Otherwise, hospitals would not pass the inspection and accreditation.

Directors of transfusion services are expected to produce optimal guidelines for appropriate use of blood and, blood components and reduce inappropriate usage and wastage, either by the hospital transfusion committee, or by direct interaction with clinicians. Having clinicians from other departments, especially those that use blood and blood components, as head of the transfusion medicine department would be perceived as a potential conflict of interest by the regulatory bodies.

Needless to say, full-time specialists play major roles in the education of medical and technical students and the research in this field,

In sum, I believe there should be full-time specialists directing transfusion departments. I do not think it appropriate for clinicians not specializing and working full-time in the blood transfusion department to run such a department. If you would like further discourse in this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Best regards.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul V. Holland, gel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a trailing 'gel'.

Paul V. Holland  
President  
International Society of Blood Transfusion

PVH/ gel - 104.02