

Best Practices

1. Title of the Practice

Database of the Blood-Donors

Objectives of the Practice

The aim of this practice is to create a database of blood-donors to help those who need blood in medical emergencies. It also aims at making the student-volunteers aware of their social responsibility by sensitizing them towards the cause of blood-donation. Lastly it was an attempt to establish an agency to help the neighbourhood community by providing them ready-access to the information on potential blood donors. In a way this practice was our way to systematize our efforts towards service to the community.

The Context

Every year on the eve of Independence Day the NSS unit of the college organizes a blood-donation camp. Student-volunteers along with staff and the residents from neighborhood community take an active part in the blood-donation. Earlier the record of the blood donors used to remain as part of the report of the NSS department. On occasions NSS volunteers were called for blood-donations during emergencies. The institute decided to transform these erratic efforts into a systematic practice. So a digitized database was created of all the blood donors available with the institute to facilitate the calls for blood donors during medical emergencies. It was to ensure that the record of the blood donors is made easily and swiftly available whenever there is an inquiry for the blood donor.

The Practice

As an institute of higher education the college organizes blood-donation camp in collaboration with a local based and government certified and registered blood-bank. The NSS unit of the college coordinates the activity as a part of its annual calendar. The student-volunteers, the staff-members and the residents from the local community take part in the camp. The medical staff of the Blood-bank checks the blood-group and determines whether the volunteers are medically fit for the blood-donation. The detailed info of the qualified donor-volunteers is then recorded with the Blood bank and the info is then shared with the NSS department. This data

including personal information and contact details is then stored in the database specially created for the cause. The NSS unit officer handles the database. As per the calls blood-donor volunteers of the concerned blood-group are selected from the database and the calls are made to them.

Evidence of Success

In last five years, the institute received *120* calls for the blood-donors. The institute was able to provide contact details of *232* blood donors, thereby helping the *111* patients in their medical emergencies. Some of the patients and their relatives/ friends have acknowledged this effort of the institute by sending Letters of appreciation. These letters show that a small effort in the right direction can also make a big difference. Every year the institute gets around 30-35 inquiries for the donors. The NSS volunteers make sure that the word is spread in the community.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

In the initial stage convincing the students to volunteer for blood donation was a difficult due to various misconceptions regarding the act of blood donation. But as the students were provided the counseling regarding the noble cause of blood donation and the scientific truth behind blood donation, the database grew in number. The calls for the blood-donation in emergencies were also responded in positive manner.