The Secretary of the 19th Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines, Medicine Access and Rational Use
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva27
Switzerland
Email: emlsecretariat@who.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Proposal to add blood components to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines

Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) hereby supports the application made by the AABB that Whole Blood/Red cells be added to the Model List of Essential Medicines.

AfSBT considers that categorising blood as a pharmaceutical commodity may have an effect on the practice and regulation of blood services. AfSBT therefore is of the opinion that the National Regulator responsible for blood transfusion services should not be transferred to the Medicines/Drug Regulatory Authority in all countries.

Yours sincerely

Professor Anthon Heyns
Managing Director