



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

April 20, 2020

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URGENT NEED TO STREAMLINE CONVALESCENT PLASMA PROTOCOLS FOR COVID 19 PATIENTS PROVIDING LIFE INSURANCE PROTECTION TO ALL FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Dear Honorable Governor of Alabama,

We would like to bring to your attention the lack of knowledge and information available to the physician community, treating ICU physicians, Blood/ Plasma Centers across America and general public at large. We have crossed over 40, 000 Covid-19 related deaths in this country and over 170,000 deaths worldwide. It is expected that these numbers are likely to climb in the next days and weeks ahead. Promising results from Convalescent plasma therapy is reported from different parts of the world. Although there is no specific proven treatment against this novel virus, experts are looking into various therapeutic trials.

As we are all aware, Covid doesn't spare anybody. As healthcare professionals working in the front line we are at much higher risk for this infection than any other group. We have tried to help several of our colleagues who are fighting for their lives on ventilators in different parts of the country. We tried through multiple sources to obtain convalescent plasma. While waiting for these trial therapy, some of our friends and colleagues had fatal outcomes. Many of our friends are still in ICU fighting for their lives. There are a number of Covid 19 survivors willing to donate plasma to help others, but no one is there to collect their plasma and methodology is not clearly defined even at this time. We would request the decision makers like you, to come up with an easier solution to make Convalescent plasma available to all needy patients in this country who qualifies under the general guidelines. We can mobilize and collect potential Plasma Donor List through our wide network of physicians and wider social network. We will be also be willing to work as a liaison between the hospitals, plasma centers, potential plasma donors and Covid 19 patients.



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We recommend the following guidelines to be implemented:

1. Give proper simpler guidelines to frontline treating physicians
2. Give proper simpler guidelines to all hospital administrators through AHA
3. Give proper guidelines to Blood Banks like Red Cross, Vitalant, Versiti, NY Blood Center etc.
4. Giving immediate directions to plasma centers to start screening potential donors
5. Recruit more blood bank staff for plasma collection due to increasing demand
6. Start collecting plasma NOW so that it can be made available quickly to save lives
7. Shelf Life of Plasma is 12 months and can be used for 2-3 patients
8. Make Convalescent plasma available to all needy ICU patients
9. Make other Clinical trial medications easily available to needy patients avoiding procedural hurdles and losing valuable treatment “window” period simply to save human lives
10. Establish central registry of donors and use mass media to educate and encourage donors to come forward by high up political leaders like Vice President and Governors

There are over 100,000 Americans of Indian Origin Physicians practicing in the United States. We also have a wide network through our local chapters spread across the country. Many of our members are working on the frontline in taking care of Covid-19 patients and are at high risk of contracting this terrible disease. We are trying to be proactive by bringing the failure of the current situation to the decision makers so that we can be better prepared in the coming days.

We are also strong advocates for additional Federal / State Government assistance for Life Insurance Protection to all frontline healthcare workers.

Thank you in advance for your help in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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