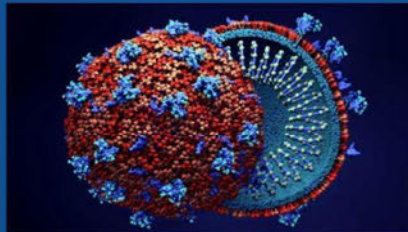




EU programme on Convalescent plasma transfusion for COVID-19

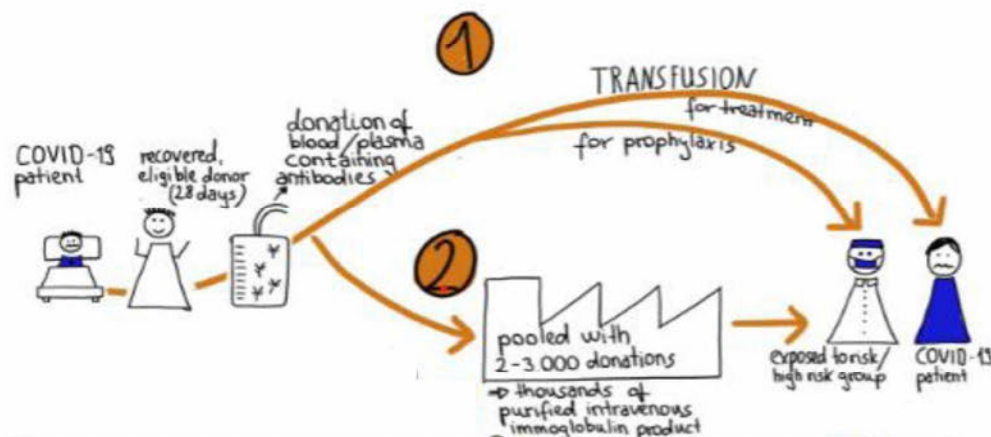
Presentation to Health Security Committee, 15 April 2020



Health



Transfusing COVID-19 convalescent plasma



- Direct transfusion therapy (1)
 - Good experiences on benefit/risk - H1N1, Avian Flu, SARS, MERS, ...
 - First COVID-19 case/anecdotal reports are encouraging (China, Korea, Italy)
 - Side effects are mainly those of standard plasma transfusion
- Possible basis for future plasma derived medicinal product (2)



Fast and broad availability of

- In more than half of Member States, blood services are (planning to) collecting convalescent plasma for direct transfusion (1)
 - Public or NGOs (Red Cross)
 - Preliminary transfusions already in some MS (IT, NL)
 - European Blood Association (EBA - 80% of Blood establishments) has established a Convalescent Plasma Study Group with a weekly meeting – high number of participants

- There are a number of clinical trials (some randomized or case-controlled) on pre-defined nr of patients approved (under approval) – IT, FR, DE, UK, DK

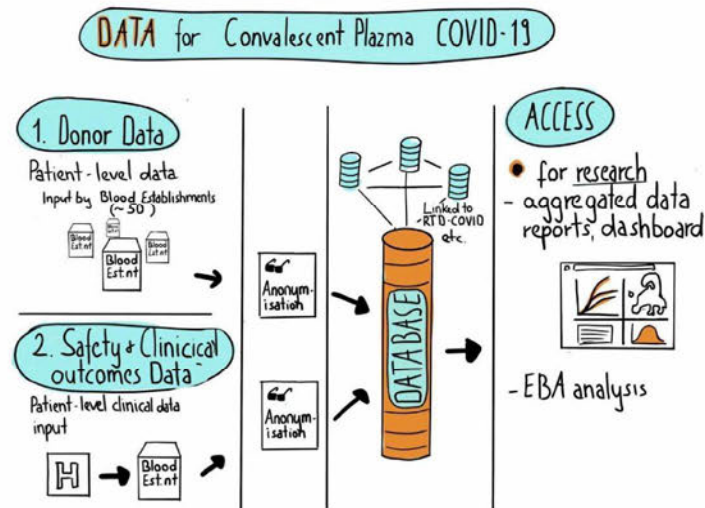
- A strong demand from clinicians to more broadly provide convalescent plasma immediately, as they have no alternatives

- ➔ Need for **monitored use** to balance (a) fast access and (b) evidence on best use of convalescent plasma

Support from the Commission



- Common Guidance from EU-27 national blood authorities, including authorisation, protocols for collection and use, monitoring outcome (SANTE)
- Common database for blood services to enter data on collection and transfusion (DIGIT, CONNECT)





Conclusion

- COVID-19 therapy with promising benefit/risk ratio
- Possible fast and broad availability through public/NGO blood services in most EU Member States
- Balance need for access and need for more studies
- Commission programme to support collection and transfusion of convalescent plasma:
 - Common guidance with national authorities
 - Monitored use database (next week)
 - Close collaboration with national blood establishments, under umbrellas of EBA (European Blood Alliance)

→ Inform national blood services and clinics, encourage participation – refer to EBA (European Blood Alliance)

- More info and progress can be followed here:
https://ec.europa.eu/health/blood_tissues_organ/covid-19_en
<https://europeanbloodalliance.eu/covid19-and-blood-establishment/>