

IPOPI calls for increased plasma collection to ensure patients with PIDs have access to their therapies

On the occasion of the International Plasma Awareness Week, IPOPI calls for national, regional and international decision makers to consider ways of safely increasing plasma collection, so that patients with Primary Immunodeficiencies (PIDs) can continue to access the life-saving immunoglobulin replacement therapies they need.

As the demand for immunoglobulin has been continuing to rise at a rate of 6-8% yearly in the past years, ensuring sufficient supply and therefore collecting enough plasma has been an ongoing concern. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a worldwide decline of blood and plasma donations which will lead to further strains on the supply of immunoglobulins. The pandemic has hit the United States hard, the country that supplies the majority of the world's plasma available for fractionation. However, this situation has not been addressed for years. If the situation is not adequately tackled now, governments will be losing precious time to try to address the immunoglobulin tensions or shortages experienced by many countries, endangering human lives.

IPOPI calls for the implementation of the following measures :

1. Increased supply and free movement of safe and efficacious immunoglobulin replacement therapies to meet patients' growing needs
2. Development of guidelines, policy & legislation should be based on FACTS & SCIENCE & experience and move away from purely ideological positions
3. Development of guidelines that would avoid the wastage of recovered plasma from blood donations, where possible
4. Develop or strengthen plasmapheresis programmes when possible, only way to increase plasma collection
5. Strongly encourage the co-existence of public & private plasma collection as the only proven way of effectively increase plasma collection capacity
6. Safety of patients with PIDs means global sufficiency in immunoglobulins based on regionally balanced plasma collection
7. Ensure that blood and plasma legislation on immunoglobulins and other plasma/derived medicinal products is patient-centred