
Blood Services

In thy blood, live!

Ezekiel, XVI, 6

One of Magen David Adom's foremost tasks is the maintenance of modern and effective blood services for the population of the country, a duty promulgated in the Magen David Adom Law enacted by the Knesset in 1950.

MDA's National Blood Services, in carrying out this task, have steadily widened the scope and sophistication of their activities for the benefit of all inhabitants of Israel. These activities are carried out by three bodies: the Blood Recruitment Division, which is in charge of the nationwide blood insurance program; the Central Blood Bank, and the Col. David Marcus Plasma Fractionation Institute.

More than 175,000 pints of fresh blood are collected annually by Magen David Adom — about 80 per cent of the country's total needs (the other 20 per cent are collected by local hospitals) and 100 per cent of the needs of the Israel Defense Forces. All blood contributions are made by volunteer donors, without remuneration. Spearheading contributions are the

members of the MDA Blood Donors Association, each of whom donates blood at least twice a year; members having blood of a rare type are on call for any emergency need. Nearly 800,000 people are currently covered by MDA's Blood Insurance which entitles every blood donor and the members of his or her immediate family to receive unlimited quantities of fresh blood for transfusions in case of need, during the year.

The fresh blood, brought to MDA's Central Blood Bank in Tel Aviv-Yafo, is sorted for blood groups and is tested and screened by highly sophisticated apparatus to ensure that it is free of any diseases, among these hepatitis and the dreaded AIDS factors. The fresh blood and its components are supplied by the MDA Blood Bank to the country's hospitals and to the Israel Defense Forces according to their daily needs, and blood reserves are stored for emergencies.

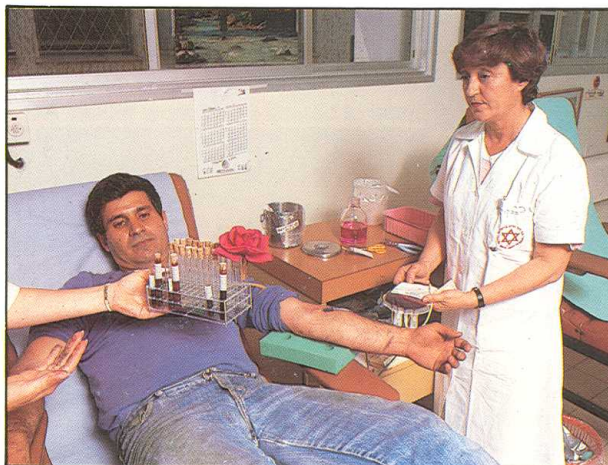
Therapeutical Components

An important task of the Central Blood Bank is the separation, by centrifugation, of fresh blood into thrombocytes, cryoprecipitate and plasma. The thrombocytes are vital helpmeets in the treatment of malignant diseases, and cryoprecipitate is supplied to sufferers from hemophilia.

At the Colonel David Marcus Fractionation Institute, adjacent to the Blood Bank, protein components are produced for therapeutic use: Normal Serum Albumin, given to accident victims to prevent shock, and Gammaglobulin.

A spacious new Blood Services Center, incorporating the most advanced attainments of medical technology, is now nearing completion on a site adjoining the Haim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, Ramat Gan. It will enable Magen David Adom to stock and supply blood reserves for all needs and to conduct a continuous program of applied research in cooperation with Israel's medical and scientific institutions.

Donor gives blood at MDA's Central Blood Bank





▲ Blood donations are sorted at Central Blood Bank by automated typing apparatus —



▲ — and are then tested and screened by the ELISA System to ensure that they are free of hepatitis and AIDS carriers

Therapeutic blood components are prepared at the MDA Central Blood Bank



Preparation of distilled water for fractionation process at the Col. David Marcus Fractionation Institute



◀ The new National Blood Services Center of Magen David Adom, now under construction, is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 1987

First Aid is for Everyone

No one knows where and when disaster may strike, where and when an accident may occur. Magen David Adom's training courses in First Aid are geared for learners of all ages and widely different backgrounds.

More than 50,000 Israelis each year learn the basics of First Aid and resuscitation in courses provided by MDA's First Aid Instruction Department. Many of the courses are held at the MDA Central First Aid School in Jaffa, named in memory of Dr. Arieh Alotin, the man who initiated MDA's First Aid training program and directed it for more than forty years. In addition, MDA instructors hold courses also in all parts of the country — the large cities, the towns, kibbutzim and villages, and border settlements. Many of those who have successfully completed the basic and advanced training programs, later on serve as volunteer First Aid instructors in MDA branches throughout Israel.

Special courses are held for members of professions who must cope with emergencies in the course of their work, such as firemen, policemen, aircraft crews, teachers, tourist guides. Under an MDA-sponsored law, all drivers of public transport vehicles must pass a First Aid course as a prerequisite for their license.

As in all spheres of MDA's activities, the emphasis is on youth. All Seventh and Eighth Graders in the country's schools are taught a 10-hour course in the fundamental techniques

of First Aid — and thus many thousands of youngsters are added every year to the ranks of those who can render help to the victims of accidents and sudden illnesses.

The most intensive training is accorded, of course, to MDA's own personnel. Every ambulance driver must successfully complete an intensive 120-hour course in all phases of First Aid, including obstetrics, for quite frequently



an ambulance driver may be called on to deliver a baby en route to the maternity hospital. The pinnacle of the instruction program is the strenuous and very thorough training given to MDA's Paramedics who later on are to man the Mobile Intensive Care Units.

MDA's extensive training program brings the ultimate goal ever closer: a First Aider in every home in Israel.



◀ The MDA Central First Aid School in Jaffa