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Q8

Case study. A landslide occurred in the middle of the night on 20th July, 2023 in a remote mountain hamlet, approximately 60 kilometres from Uttarkashi. The landslide was caused by torrential rains and has resulted in large-scale destruction of property and life. You, as District Magistrate of that area, have rushed to the spot with a team of doctors, NGOs, media and police along with numerous support staff to oversee the rescue operations. A man came running to you with a request for urgent medical help for his pregnant wife who is in labour and is losing blood. You directed your medical team to examine his wife. They return and convey to you that this woman needs blood transfusion immediately. Upon enquiry, you come to know that a few blood collection bags and blood group test kits are available in the ambulance accompanying your team. Few people of your team have already volunteered to donate blood. Being a physician who has graduated from AIIMS, you know that blood for transfusion needs to be procured only through a recognized blood bank. Your team members are divided on this issue; some favour transfusion, while some others oppose it. The doctors in the team are ready to facilitate the delivery provided they are not penalized for transfusion. Now you are in a dilemma. Your professional training emphasizes on prioritising service to humanity and saving lives of individuals.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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National Blood Policy, 2002

India's policy that blood should be obtained and issued through licensed, quality-assured blood banks, with voluntary donation as the preferred source.

Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945

The statutory frame under which blood banks are licensed and transfusion services are regulated as a drug-related activity.

Disaster Management Act, 2005

Gives disaster authorities duties and powers to rescue and relieve, which supports a recorded emergency medical order in a landslide.

Article 21, Constitution of India

Protection of life and personal liberty; a mechanical wait that causes a preventable death is hard to defend as a rights-respecting choice.

Informed consent

The patient or guardian is told the emergency, the residual risk of uncross-matched or field blood, and the alternative of delay, then agrees or refuses.

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