

Stem cell donor registry soon

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It has been reported that the official database on stem cell donors and recipients to be created by health ministry utilizing the service of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The registry would be the first government registry in the country.

As per suggested proposal that is being evaluated currently, all district hospitals would be enrolled in the first phase to seek stem cell details from across the country. Once a stem cell donor registry was in place, a willing donor could be contacted and one could coordinate easily.

In addition to the donor registry, the ministry was also looking at creating facilities for human leucocyte antigen (HLA) typing. HLA-typing, a process conducted for matching donors and recipients of stem cell is necessary to minimise stem cell transplant rejection according to experts.

Stem cell therapy has been found to be effective in various blood disorders and in treatment of cancer and is widely used in bone marrow transplantation.