

## European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), Council of Europe: Blood Transfusion Activities

### Mission

The work of the Council of Europe in the blood transfusion area started in the 50's. From the outset, the activities were inspired by the following guiding principles:

- promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation,
- mutual assistance,
- optimal use of blood and blood products, and
- protection of the donor and recipient.

In 2007, the secretariat responsible for blood transfusion activities was transferred to the EDQM<sup>1</sup> and it is the European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS) who is in charge of steering and coordinating the actions of the Council of Europe<sup>2</sup> in this field.

### Membership

Council of Europe member states, party of observers to the European Pharmacopoeia<sup>3</sup> Convention are represented in the CD-P-TS and its subordinate experts group, non-European observer countries to the European Pharmacopoeia<sup>3</sup> Convention in particular Australia, Canada, and the USA, the European Commission, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and representatives of related and relevant Council of Europe Committees (European Public Health and European Bioethics Committees) are privileged observers to the Committee CD-P-TS.

### European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS)

The European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS) undertakes to:

- examine questions related to human blood transfusion, notably on quality and safety standards and their implementation in the different member states;
- assist member states in improving blood transfusion services, and if needed, in restructuring their blood transfusion services to promote the principle of voluntary non-remunerated donations;
- define and promote the implementation of quality and safety standards in the collection, storage, distribution and use of blood and blood components;
- propose ethical, safety and quality standards on professional practices and product specifications;
- ensure the transfer of knowledge and expertise and develop the competencies of experts through training and networking;
- establish good practices in transfusion medicine and monitor their use in Europe;
- assess epidemiological risks linked to blood and its components, in particular for new transmissible diseases;

<sup>1</sup> The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare contributes to protecting and promoting public and animal health in Europe by establishing high quality standards for:

- Human and veterinary medicinal products,
- Blood Transfusion and organs transplantations,
- The safe and appropriate use of medicines.

<sup>2</sup> A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.

<sup>3</sup> Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America

- ensure the availability of rare blood products by providing appropriate and adapted tools such as the European Bank of Frozen Blood of Rare Groups or other appropriate databases.

The Committee CD-P-TS meets at least once a year.

### Recent Resolutions

- Resolution CM/Res(2008)5 on donor responsibility and on limitation to donation of blood and blood components, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 March 2008.

### Landmark Texts

- Terms of reference adopted on 6 February 2007 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- Report on the Collection, Testing and Use of Blood and Blood Products in Europe, 2003, 2004 and 2005;
- Reporting from Council of Europe member states on the collection, testing and use of blood and blood components in Europe, 2001-2006;
- Activities of Blood Banks in the Council of Europe Member States related to Bone Marrow Transplantations, 1996;
- Pathogen Reduction Technologies for Blood Components for Transfusion enquiry, March 2008.

### Major Events

- 2007 and 2008: four plenary meetings of the Committee CD-P-TS took place to plan a work programme consistent with its first mandate (until end of 2009);
- 2008: three plenary meetings of the subordinate working group for the guide (31 experts) and organisation of a public enquiry for the revision and update of the Council of Europe's "Guide for collection testing and use of blood components" (current edition, 14<sup>th</sup>);
- 2008: nomination of experts to a working group charged with restructuring and updating the technical standards in the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of this guide which is scheduled for publication the beginning of 2010;
- 2008: a public enquiry was carried out on the revision and update of the current edition of the guide;
- 2008: two working groups were created on blood donor management and the idea of setting up a rare blood products database was explored;
- 2008: development of a communications strategy and continued involvement in promotional activities such as World Blood Donor Day.

### Recent Publications

"Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components" 14<sup>th</sup> Edition (2008). The guide contains recommendations on blood collection, blood components, technical procedures, transfusion practices and quality systems for blood establishments and thus describes a set of measures designed to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy of blood components. It represents a key milestone in defining the "gold standard" for blood transfusion services.

### Contact

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