



**22 March 2011, Strasbourg, France**

*Note for the Editors:* Further information is available on the internet site: [www.edqm.eu](http://www.edqm.eu)

## **NEW GUIDE TO THE SAFETY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR THE TRANSPLANTATION OF ORGANS, TISSUES AND CELLS (4TH EDITION, 2010)**

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM, Council of Europe) is releasing a new edition of the Guide to the Safety and Quality Assurance for the Transplantation of Organs, Tissues and Cells (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2010).

This guide is elaborated by internationally recognised experts from Council of Europe Member States and observer countries, the European Commission, the World Health Organization and several non-governmental organisations. The Steering Committee in charge of co-ordinating the actions of the Council of Europe in this field is the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO).

This new edition of the Guide provides sound information and guidance to all professionals involved in donation, transplantation and other clinical applications of organs, in order to optimise the quality and minimise the risks of these complex procedures.

It has been elaborated to help professionals on a practical level, by providing easy-to-use information at the bed-side for transplant co-ordinators in Europe. In addition, it provides appropriate guidelines for quality and safety management of the multiple relevant procedures with respect to ethical principles.

At times organ transplantation is the sole therapy option available to many patients with end-stage organ failure and demand for organs continues to increase. Information collated in the Guide aims at making the best use of available organs for transplant, in the best conditions for the patient.

The Guide is available in print version, in English and French. There are plans to make it available in electronic format and in other languages. For more information on the Guide and how to order, please visit the EDQM website: [www.edqm.eu](http://www.edqm.eu).

**Contact:** Caroline Larsen Le Tarnec  
Public Relations Division, EDQM  
Tel.: +33 (0) 3 88 41 28 15  
E-mail: [caroline.letarnec@edqm.eu](mailto:caroline.letarnec@edqm.eu)

**Note for the Editor:** The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark world-wide. The European Pharmacopeia is legally-binding in European Member States. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

The work of the Council of Europe in the area of organ transplantation started in the 1950's. It has contributed actively to the implementation of high standards for the protection of public health and for the promotion of human rights and dignity. Priority is given in the work programme not only to the publication of the Guide, but also to the publication of a booklet on regulatory and technical matters related to living donor transplantation, a Transplant Newsletter giving international figures on organ donation, and to assist member states in improving their organ transplantation services whilst promoting the principle of voluntary non-remunerated donations. Reports and organ transplantation recommendations from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe are also elaborated and available on the EDQM website.

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