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

**EDQM LAUNCHES NEW WEB PAGE ON BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROJECTS**  
**Risk behaviours with an impact on blood donor management and transfusion safety:**  
**Recommendation by the European Committee on Blood Transfusion**

Exclusion criteria for blood donors, especially with regard to sexual behaviours, are much debated. The present situation, involving the permanent exclusion of individuals whose behaviour places them at higher risks of acquiring severe infectious diseases that are transmissible by blood, is being questioned by citizens and by the press in terms of whether this kind of donor deferral is rightful, appropriate, efficient and required.

Despite the testing of blood donations with highly sensitive test systems, there remains a residual risk of transfusion-transmitted infection due to donations given in the 'window' period, i.e. the time period between initial infection and its detection. This is not always recognised by the public.

As a consequence, the European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS) of the EDQM, Council of Europe, has appointed a working group (TS057) to monitor current practices, evaluate the scientific data and define a harmonised approach to establishing rules for donor deferral, linked to the risks attributable to sexual behaviour<sup>1</sup>. The group started its work in February 2010 and will finish during autumn 2011.

The EDQM has launched a new web page highlighting its various projects in the area of blood transfusion. The launch of the web page reflects the growing number of important activities in this field. It is a valuable resource providing an information portal for all interested in finding the latest information on the TS057 project and is designed to be a centralised forum to share information about ongoing projects.

It includes details of the progress of each project, press releases, news updates on new or planned projects, relevant resolutions, the terms of reference of the different project groups, as well as links to other organisations working in this area. The web page also gives the list of the members of the CD-P-TS. All those looking for additional information on the TS057 project are invited to contact the EDQM via its HelpDesk or, alternatively, the members of the CD-P-TS can be contacted directly.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.edqm.eu/en/Projects-1449.html>

EDQM HelpDesk: <http://www.edqm.eu/en/FAQ-Helpdesk-List-630.html>

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*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.*

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the Council of Europe, regulatory bodies, scientific agencies and other interested parties are involved in the project e.g. the European Commission (EC), European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), United States Food and Drug Administration (US-FDA), Health Canada, Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA, Australia), World Health Organization (WHO) Blood Regulators Network, the International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT) and European Blood Alliance (EBA).



**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 Pharmacopoeia<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup>There are currently thirty-seven members of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom and the European Union* and twenty-three observers: *The World Health Organisation (WHO); 6 member states of the Council of Europe: Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine; 16 other countries in the world: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America.*

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