

B-QM – Blood Quality Management Programme



Supporting the implementation and development of quality management systems in European blood establishments and hospital blood banks

Background and objectives

European blood establishments and hospital blood banks are required by European Union legislation to implement a quality management system (QMS). The Blood Quality Management Programme (or B-QM) is designed to support them in developing, implementing and improving their QMS, and therefore in protecting the health of patients in need of blood and blood components across the continent.

Set up and implemented by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), the Council of Europe directorate responsible for numerous essential healthcare programmes, and co-funded by the EDQM and the European Commission, the B-QM Programme has been assisting European blood establishments since 2012.

Activities organised

• On-site and virtual assessment schemes

The EDQM offers different on-site and virtual assessment schemes tailored to the level of maturity of each blood establishment or hospital blood bank's QMS.

• Blood Tailored Expert Support (B-TES)

This scheme offers tailor-made support to staff on technical and QMS topics, based on issues raised by the organisation, together with recommendations on addressing them from a quality management perspective. This scheme is only offered in a virtual format.

• Blood Training Visit (B-TV)

This type of visit can be carried out on-site or virtually. Experts make recommendations and conduct training sessions for staff on technical and QMS issues, based on their findings and observations.

• Blood Mutual Joint Visit (B-MJV)

This on-site or virtual visit is conducted to assess a QMS during the development phase and provide recommendations for improvement and/or advice on its implementation.

• Blood Mutual Joint Audit (B-MJA)

This on-site or virtual audit is performed to check the compliance of the implemented QMS with established standards and requirements.

The minimum standards to be implemented by European blood establishments and hospital blood banks are laid out in EU legislation and the latest version of the EDQM/Council of Europe Good Practice Guidelines for blood establishments, part of the [*Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components*](#).

Assessment schemes are performed by peers – European experts from the blood transfusion field – who share their experience and knowledge.

By participating in the B-QM schemes provided by the EDQM, European blood establishments and hospital blood banks benefit from an objective means of implementing, improving and monitoring their QMS.

• Training courses and conferences

In addition to these schemes, the EDQM organises training courses, workshops and/or conferences once a year (virtually or on-site) with the aim of sharing best practice in the field of quality management as it applies to substances of human origin (SoHo).

Added value

The B-QM Programme is an assistance and training programme for European blood establishments and hospital blood banks that provides an opportunity to learn and exchange information with peers. European experts share their experience and knowledge, using a constructive and open approach, to help organisations implement the European standards and develop a risk-based and cost-effective QMS.

Participation

Participation in B-QM schemes is open to all European blood establishments and hospital blood banks. Full information is available on our B-QM web page: <https://go.edqm.eu/BQM>.

To apply, either request the application form at EDQM_B_QM@edqm.eu or fill in the online application form at <https://go.edqm.eu/BQMrequest>.

Training courses and conferences are advertised in advance on the EDQM upcoming events and training web page (<https://go.edqm.eu/events>), along with registration information and links. A number of past events and training sessions are available in the EDQM e-Learning catalogue (<https://go.edqm.eu/eLearning>).

Participation in B-QM Programme activities is free of charge.

Interested in participating in the B-QM programme? Want to learn more? Visit our website at <https://go.edqm.eu/BQM> or contact us at EDQM_B_QM@edqm.eu!

