

Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation

9th Edition



State-of-the-art information and essential technical guidance for healthcare professionals based on the most recent advancements, to ensure the safety and quality of human organs intended for transplantation and improve organ transplantation outcomes

Purpose and background

Progress in organ transplantation in recent decades has been considerable, yet the need for transplantable organs remains far greater than the supply, creating an important barrier to transplant therapies worldwide. As the only solution for patients suffering from end-stage organ failure, this gap can have dire consequences. In addition to availability, the safety and quality of organs, as for other substances of human origin (SoHO), is critical to improving transplantation outcomes and reducing the risk of disease transmission. Comprehensive quality systems and appropriate donor screening and selection are therefore essential. The Council of Europe's *Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation* (the Organ Guide), published by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), is a key resource for healthcare professionals working in organ donation and transplantation.

The Council of Europe is the leading standard-setting institution in this field. Its work is co-ordinated by the EDQM through the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), which oversees organ, tissue and cell donation and transplantation activities. It develops ethical, quality and safety standards in the field of organs, tissues and cells and promotes the non-commercial donation of SoHO and the fight against organ trafficking.

Target audience

The Organ Guide provides healthcare professionals with the latest technical and ethical guidance to support their activities, with the ultimate goal of improving organ transplantation outcomes. It is aimed at professionals involved in donor identification, co-ordinators managing living or deceased donation pathways, those responsible for the allocation and clinical use of human organs, quality managers and health authorities responsible for donation and transplantation programmes.

New in the 9th edition

In this edition, all chapters have been thoroughly revised according to the state of the art. In particular, Chapter 11 (*Organ procurement, preservation and transportation*) and Chapter 12 (*Donation after the determination of death by circulatory criteria*) have been fully reworked. Important new chapters have also been added: Chapter 17 (*Principles and good practice in allocating organs from deceased donors*) and Chapter 21 (*Crisis management and contingency planning*). "Take note!" boxes have been added to summarise and emphasise key extracts and an updated research agenda section concludes most chapters, identifying priority research areas, where evidence is insufficient or inexistent.

How to obtain a copy

The *Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation* is available online and in print, in English and in French.

It can be downloaded from [FreePub](https://www.freepub.org/), the EDQM's free publications platform; the print version is available for purchase from the [EDQM WebStore](https://www.edqm.eu/webstore/).



For more details, visit the EDQM website: <https://go.edqm.eu/OTg>.



Additional guidance

Guide to the quality and safety of tissues and cells for human application – Technical guidance on the donation and human application of tissues and cells of human origin: <https://go.edqm.eu/TCg>



Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components – European harmonised standards on safety, efficacy and quality requirements for blood components: <https://go.edqm.eu/BTg>



For further information on additional guidance documents in the transplantation field for governments, professionals and the general public, please visit: <https://go.edqm.eu/TransplantReports>

