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Council of Europe Member States set standards to ensure the protection and safety of non-resident living donors

Many countries are developing and optimising living donor programmes either to complement the limited availability of organs from deceased donors or as the only source of organs while they develop deceased donor programmes. In the present globalised times, where people often travel and live abroad, many countries are accepting non-resident living donors. However, there are recognised variations across countries in approach when accepting these donors, such as in the screening and consent process, the reimbursement of justifiable expenses related to the donation procedure, and in the access to post-operative and follow-up care.

In view of this situation, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has adopted *Resolution CM/Res(2017)1 on principles for the selection, evaluation, donation and follow-up of the non-resident living organ donors.* This new resolution, elaborated by the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), is aimed at protecting non-resident living donors who, for a number of reasons – economic, emotional, cultural or physical – may be particularly vulnerable, and whose post-donation care and follow-up may be difficult to guarantee.

This new Resolution provides much-needed guidance for all countries accepting non-resident organs donors into their living donation programmes and details rigorous donor selection, evaluation and follow-up measures that these countries should set in place to ensure the protection and well-being of these donors.

In particular, detailed recommendations are provided for: the appropriate work-up of the potential non-resident living donor before travel for donation; their lawful entry into the country where the donation would take place; the appropriate medical screening and psychosocial evaluation before authorisation of the donation – including the validity of their consent to donate, taking into consideration cultural and linguistic elements where relevant; the reimbursement of all justifiable expenses; the initial and long term follow-up of the non-resident donor, and the recording of the donation in national living donor registries both in the country where the donation took place and in their home countries.

The full text of the *Resolution CM/Res(2017)1 on principles for the selection, evaluation, donation and follow-up of the non-resident living organ donors* can be found here: https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/cmres_2017_1-on_principles_for_selection_eval_donation_and_follow_up_of_nrld.pdf

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site **www.edqm.eu**
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 Member States[1]. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

[1]There are thirty-nine members of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

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.