

Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of **BLOOD COMPONENTS**



**European Committee
(Partial Agreement)
on Blood Transfusion
(CD-P-TS)**

EDQM
18th Edition
2015

Guide to the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components

Why a European guide?

■ In the field of blood transfusion, co-operation among Council of Europe member states started back in the 1950s. From the outset, the activities were inspired by the following guiding principles: promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation; mutual assistance; optimal use of blood and blood products; and protection of the donor and the recipient.

■ The Council of Europe has elaborated a *Guide to the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components* as a technical appendix to its Recommendation No. R (95) 15.

■ Work on Recommendation No. R (95) 15 started in 1986, when the Select Committee of Experts on Quality Assurance in Blood Transfusion Services published proposals on quality assurance in blood transfusion services. Based on these proposals, the Select Committee produced a more comprehensive guide on blood components in 1995. The immediate success and acceptance of this document was such that the Committee of Ministers adopted it as a technical appendix to Recommendation No. R (95) 15.

■ This guide is a compendium of requirements designed to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy of blood components.

■ The Recommendation requires that the guide is updated to keep it in line with scientific progress and regulatory changes. The European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS), the Steering Committee in charge of blood transfusion activities for the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM) of the Council of Europe, assisted by leading European experts, is responsible for producing regular updates.

■ This review includes a public consultation and comments are invited from national health authorities as well as all interested parties before a new edition is published.

Who is the guide designed for?

■ The guide is a tool specifically designed for blood transfusion professionals working in transfusion services and establishments, hospital blood banks and regulatory authorities.

What information does the guide contain?

■ The guide contains harmonised standards and recommendations on blood collection, preparation and use of blood and its components, and elements of quality management for blood establishments and hospital blood banks. It represents the basis for the establishment of national regulations and certain European directives.

Publication and purchase of the guide

■ The guide is available in English. Translations into other languages are being done under the responsibility of external parties and with the agreement of the EDQM. For more information on how to order, please visit the EDQM website: www.edqm.eu/store.

■ Upon purchase of a book version of the guide and registration, online access to the guide is granted to users (<http://tots.edqm.eu>).



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