

II WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ON TRANSPLANT RELATED CRIMES

Strasbourg (France)

Thursday 9 November 2017 (9:00-18:00)

Friday 10 November 2017 (9:00-13:30)

**Venue: EDQM premises
7 Allée Kastner, Strasbourg
Room 500 – Ground floor**

1. INTRODUCTION

Organ transplantation is now a consolidated therapy saving and improving the life of more than 110,000 patients every year throughout the world.¹ However, the limited capacity to meet the transplantation needs of patients with chronic organ failure has led to the emergence of trafficking in human organs (THO) and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal (HTOR), usually under the form of transnational criminal activities. The distinctive feature of these transplant-related crimes – the necessary involvement of healthcare professionals and facilities – also provides a unique opportunity to help prevent, detect and combat these crimes. In their daily practice, nephrologists and other transplant professionals attend to patients who may be considering traveling abroad to purchase an organ. Healthcare professionals are also responsible for evaluating donor-recipient pairs and ensuring the legitimacy and motivations of potential donors. Additionally, both the sophisticated care that is required for monitoring organ function following transplantation and the need for lifelong immunosuppression in recipients inevitably bring physicians into contact with illicitly transplanted patients and victims.

Council of Europe *Resolution CM/Res(2013)55*², adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 December 2013 at the 1187th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, calls member States to adopt procedures and methods for the regular collection of data on illicit transplantation procedures performed outside the framework of a domestic transplantation system and to communicate the results to the Council of Europe Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO). In the context of this Resolution, member States have designated a National Focal Point (NFP), based at the existing national transplantation body and/or Ministry of Health, in charge of this data collection. More recently, *Resolution CM/Res(2017)2*³, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 June 2017 at the 1289th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, calls on member States to establish procedures for the management of all patients having received an organ transplant abroad upon return to their home country to receive follow-up care.

In the context of both Resolutions, the nomination of reference NFPs is essential to gain a better knowledge of the phenomenon of travel for transplantation and transplant tourism and brings the unique opportunity of providing comprehensive and integrated information and recommendations on these matters at national level. In addition, this international network of NFP on transplant-related crimes within national transplant agencies and/or health authorities

¹ Global Observatory on Organ Donation and Transplantation. Available at: <http://www.transplant-observatory.org/Pages/home.aspx>. Last access: October 2017.

² Resolution CM/Res(2013)55 on establishing procedures for the collection and dissemination of data on transplantation activities outside a domestic transplantation system. Available at: https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/resolution_cmres201355_on_establishing_procedures_for_the_collecti_on_and_dissemination_of_data_on_tr.pdf. Last access: October 2017.

³ Resolution CM/Res(2017)2 on establishing procedures for the management of patients having received an organ transplant abroad upon return to their home country to receive follow-up care. Available at https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/cmres_2017_2-on_establishing_procedures_for_patients_received_organ_tx_abroad.pdf. October 2017.

will also play a crucial role at national and international level in ensuring a comprehensive and integrated support to the fight against transplant-related crimes and the attention to victims and patients.

On 30 November-1 December 2016 the “I Workshop for NFPs on transplant related crimes” was organised in Madrid, Spain, by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Spanish Organización Nacional de Trasplantes (ONT). During this workshop, NFPs received the necessary training and tools to carry out their task, in particular, to:

- a) understand the scope, nature and key players related to HTOR and THO and the risks for individuals and public health systems associated with this crimes;
- b) perform a rigorous and comprehensive collection of information on transplant-related crimes, yielding a clearer understanding of the nature and scope of these crimes, the organisation of the criminal networks involved and their modus operandi;
- c) increase awareness among health authorities and healthcare professionals on transplant-related crimes;
- d) elaborate national protocols and codes of conduct to provide an adequate framework within the medical field to prevent, detect and report transplant-related crimes, including the training of healthcare professionals likely to encounter them during their professional practice;
- e) be able to act as a reference person to exchange and disseminate information at both national and international level on transplant-related crimes;
- f) help establish multidisciplinary synergies and a multiagency approach to ensure effective fight against transplant-related crimes.

In June 2017 the International Database on Travel for Transplantation was launched. Through this data collection exercise, NFPs were requested to provide information about patients who received a transplant abroad and returned to their country to receive follow-up care. The international exchange of information about these patients will help to better understand and analyse the phenomenon of travel for transplantation, the long-term outcomes and potentials risks to both individuals and public health and to identify possible hotspots of transplant tourism.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

In this II Workshop, that will take place in Strasbourg on 9-10 November 2017, the NFPs will discuss their role and experience as NFPs so far, jointly examine the 2015 data collection exercise, share the lessons learned after their first year in the role of NFP and participate in breakout sessions where case studies will be analysed in order to develop tools and reach conclusions on the best practices to prevent and address illicit transplantation practices.

This workshop will be held in English.

3. PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

Thursday 9 November 2017		
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 9:40	WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS	
	Welcome	Marta López Fraga
9:40 – 13:00	STATE OF THE ART IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSPLANT RELATED CRIMES	
9:40 – 10:00	<i>The network of NFP on transplant related crimes</i>	Marta López Fraga
10:00 – 11:30	<i>The NFP perspective (actions, tools developed, future tasks and needs)</i>	Tour de table NFP
11:30 – 11:50	Coffee break	
11:50 – 12:15	<i>Evaluation and authorisation of living donor procedures. The special case on non-resident living donors</i>	Lisa Burnapp
12:15 – 12:35	<i>Management of the patient transplanted abroad</i>	Beatriz Domínguez-Gil
12:35 – 13:00	Discussion	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	BREAKOUT SESSION: CASE STUDIES	
14:00 – 14:20	<i>Presentation of the case studies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Evaluation of a donor-recipient pair</i> - <i>Recipient who received a transplant abroad returns to their country to receive follow-up care</i> - <i>Patient with end-stage renal disease discusses travel plans with treating physician</i> - <i>Website/social media advertising transplant tourism package deal/organ for sale</i> 	Facilitators per case: Lisa Burnapp Jay Lavee Dominique Martin Gilad Erlich
14:20 – 15:30	<i>Work in 8 groups, 1 case per group (case analysis and development of an action plan)</i>	
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:30	Round table with participants to present and discuss their results	

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9:00 – 12:20	DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE	
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Summary of the 2015 data</i>	Marta López Fraga
9:30 – 10:15	<i>Classification of patients who travelled for transplantation based on the reported data</i> Round table	Debate facilitated by: Beatriz Domínguez-Gil
10:15 – 11:00	<i>Actions to follow by Council of Europe and NFPs for each group of patients</i> Round table	Debate facilitated by: Dominique Martin
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break	
11:20 – 11:50	<i>Publication of yearly reports</i> Round table	Debate facilitated by: Marta López Fraga
11:50 – 12:20	<i>Shared learning from the data collection exercise. How should we move forward?</i> Round table	Debate facilitated by: Marta López Fraga
12:20 – 13:00	THE ROLE OF NFPs IN SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND FACILIATING INTERAGENCY COOPERATION	
12:20 – 12:40	<i>Supporting healthcare professionals in preventing and addressing transplant-related crimes</i>	Dominique Martin
12:40 – 13:00	<i>Promoting interagency cooperation</i>	Jay Lavee and Gilad Erlich
13:00 – 13:15	RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS	
13:15 – 13:25	FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS	
13:25 – 13:30	FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSIONS	
		Marta López Fraga