

Human organ and tissue transplantation

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on human organ and tissue transplantation,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-second World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA40.13, WHA42.5 and WHA44.25 on organ procurement and transplantation and WHA57.18 requesting an update of the Guiding Principles;

Having considered the report on human organ and tissue transplantation;

Aware of the growing magnitude and utility of human cell, tissue and organ transplantation for a wide range of conditions in low- as well as high-resource countries;

Committed to the principles of human dignity and solidarity which condemn the buying of human body parts for transplantation and the exploitation of the poorest and most vulnerable populations and the human trafficking that result from such practices;

Determined to prevent harm caused by the seeking of financial gain or comparable advantage in transactions involving human body parts, including organ trafficking and transplant tourism;

Convinced that the voluntary, non-remunerated donation of organs, cells and tissues from deceased and living donors helps to ensure a vital community resource;

Conscious of the extensive cross-boundary circulation of cells and tissues for transplantation;

Sensitive to the need for surveillance of adverse events and reactions associated with the donation, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs as such and for international exchange of such data to optimize the safety and efficacy of transplantation;

¹ Document EB124/15.

1. WELCOMES the WHO Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation;¹
2. URGES Member States:²
 - (1) to implement the Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation in the formulation and enforcement of their own policies, laws and legislation regarding human cell, tissue and organ donation and transplantation where appropriate;
 - (2) to foster public awareness and understanding of the benefits as a result of the voluntary non-remunerated provision of cells, tissues and organs as such from deceased and living donors, in contrast to the physical, psychological and social risks to individuals and communities caused by trafficking in material of human origin and transplant tourism;
 - (3) to oppose the seeking of financial gain or comparable advantage in transactions involving human body parts, organ trafficking and transplant tourism, including by encouraging health-care professionals to notify relevant authorities when they become aware of such practices in accordance with national capacities and legislation;
 - (4) to promote equitable access to transplantation services in accordance with national capacities, which provides the foundation for public support of voluntary donation;
 - (5) to improve the safety and efficacy of donation and transplantation by promoting international best practices;
 - (6) to strengthen national and multinational authorities and/or capacities to provide oversight, organization and coordination of donation and transplantation activities, with special attention to maximizing donation from deceased donors and to protecting the health and welfare of living donors;
 - (7) to collaborate in collecting data including adverse events and reactions on the practices, safety, quality, efficacy, epidemiology and ethics of donation and transplantation;
 - (8) to encourage the implementation of globally consistent coding systems for human cells, tissues and organs as such in order to facilitate national and international traceability of materials of human origin for transplantation;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to disseminate the updated Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation as widely as possible to all interested parties;

¹ Document EB124/15, Annex.

² And regional economic international organizations where appropriate.

- (2) to support Member States and nongovernmental organizations to ban trafficking in material of human origin and transplant tourism;
- (3) to continue collecting and analysing global data on the practices, safety, quality, efficacy, epidemiology and ethics of donation and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs;
- (4) to facilitate Member States' access to appropriate information on the donation, processing and transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs, including data on severe adverse events and reactions;
- (5) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support for developing national legislation and regulation on, and suitable systems for, donation and transplantation of human cells, tissues or organs, in particular by facilitating international cooperation;
- (6) to review the Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation periodically in the light of national experience with their implementation and of developments in the field of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs;
- (7) to report to the Health Assembly at least every four years on actions taken by the Secretariat, as well as by Member States, to implement this resolution.

Twelfth meeting, 26 January 2009
EB124/SR/12

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