

Leiden, November 1, 2017

Dear BMDW Listing Organisation,

Introduction

Last August, we have informed you about the timelines to move to a new data format for listing donors and cord blood units in the global database “Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide”.

This letter is to inform you about a delay in starting to accept XML files from your organisation. The new start date will be: April 1, 2018.

Background

As you might know, WMDA is striving to have more and high quality data and insight available to inform effective and efficient patient/donor matching. In August, a letter has been sent out to inform you about the change to move to a new Extensible Markup Language (XML) file format.

Below you will find a table on the current transition status of organisations:

Status	Number of organisations
Organisation did not respond	11
In process to prepare XML file	50
XML has been sent, visual check required	20
XML has been sent, complete inventory test required	20
XML has been sent, quality is not good	3
XML has been sent, small revisions required	26

Not all organisations are ready to go to the XML format and asked us to delay the transition to the first quarter of 2018.

The infrastructure of accepting and validating files is nearly ready. At the moment, we are working on performance and penetration tests of the system. This is important in order to ensure the security and authenticity of all the data. However, the testing period requires more time than initially anticipated.

Based on these observations, the decision has been taken to extend the transition date to move to XML for data submission to April 1, 2018.

Proposed revised plan and timeline

Find below the revised timelines in order to migrate from the old data format to the new (XML) data format.

Key date	Activities
July 31, 2017 - January 15, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information, support and guidance to organisations to help transition to the new file format and submission process. Organisations send test XML files via the data upload service and will receive validation results and feedback. If your organisation would like to upload a test file, an e-mail can be sent to support@bmdw.org for details.

Key date	Activities
January 15 - February 15, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot test phase: NMDP, ZKRD, Anthony Nolan and other selected organisations (previously sent high quality test file) submit data via the new XML file and conduct end-to-end testing to confirm that the new data submission infrastructure is functioning properly. <p>NOTE: All organisations should continue to send DOT20 files via the current data submission method to update their data the production database</p>
March 1 - April 1, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a successful pilot, WMDA starts accepting XML files into production from the approved pilot organisations. WMDA will schedule a date with your organisation to move to the new file format.
April 1 - June 1, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All organisations to be migrated to the new platform. After June 1, BMDW will no longer accepts data submissions via DOT20 format. BMDW only accepts XML files.
Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The XML file format (XSD files) will be reviewed and adjusted, based on feedback and scientific developments.

Support and guidance

We already assisted several organisations to create an XML file with their inventory from the organisation specific databases. Do you also need support or clarification of technical details? WMDA can offer you a consult with our ICT specialists. If you would like to request an appointment for a consultation, please contact the WMDA office through support@bmdw.org.

We would like to take this opportunity to stress that the move to the new data submission process is a critical milestone in the continuing development of the global network to facilitate matches for patients worldwide. We value your effort in supporting this transition.

If your organisation cannot meet any of the timelines described above, need support, or have difficulty in fulfilling the requirements of the new data format, please do not hesitate to contact the WMDA office as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to: support@bmdw.org.

On November 9th, you can meet the team at the WMDA Fall meeting in Minneapolis. They are available from 09:00 AM till 11:00 AM in Director's Row 3 in the Hilton Hotel for answering any questions.

We thank you for your support and collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Lydia Foeken
Executive director