Dear Dr. Kürsteiner,

We are referring to your request dated March 14, 2020, on the import and export of donor lymphocyte infusions during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic situation. On the basis of the Swiss Transplantation Ordinance Art. 50, the Swiss Transfusion SRC (Blutspende SRK Schweiz AG) is responsible for maintaining the blood stem cell register in accordance with Art. 62 of the Swiss Transplantation Act.

We can confirm that Blutspende SRK Schweiz AG is holding a Swissmedic import and export authorization no. 510995 for blood products, as - in the context of a blood stem cell transplantation - also Donor Lymphocyte Infusions (DLI) must be imported or exported for these vital patient treatments. In order to assure appropriate handling during transport of these products, import or export shipment of DLI normally is accompanied by named couriers from certified courier companies. These companies are either directly mandated by Blutspende SRK Schweiz AG or by the international registry in the case of a Swiss Donor.

We hope that this letter can facilitate the import or export of DLI during the pandemic situation, while fully taking into account the existing or future restrictions that are or may be imposed by Swiss or foreign authorities in the context of COVID-19 situation.

Regards,

Swissmedic, Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products
Division of Inspectorate and Licenses
Head Inspectorate

Dr. Christian Schärer

Assistant

Astrid Bapst