

COVID-19 - Impact on Registry Operations

This page includes resources and information for the stem cell community regarding coronavirus. As the stem cell community continues to address the ongoing spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), which causes COVID-19, WMDA will provide updates through this web page.

General information:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)
- [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and the supply of substances of human origin in the EU/EEA](#) (first update, published on April 29, 2020)
- [US Food & Drug Administration](#)
- [Centres for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Actual global cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE](#)

Information for healthcare professionals:

- [WMDA Webinars on COVID-19](#)
- [Professional Societies](#)
 - [AABB: link](#)
 - [American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy \(ASTCT\): link, new May 20th, watch here the joint ASTCT/NMDP webinar.](#)
 - [European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation \(EBMT\): link, new May 18th. Click here.](#)
 - [Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy \(FACT\): link](#)
 - [World Marrow Donor Association \(WMDA\)](#)
 - [Worldwide Network For Blood & Marrow Transplantation \(WBMT\): link](#)
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 - [Germany ZKRD \(ION-6939\)](#)
 - [Hungary Hungarian Stem Cell Donor Registry \(ION-1695\)](#)
 - [Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry \(ION-4070\)](#)
 - [Israel Ezer Mizion Registry Israel Bone Marrow Donor Registry \(ION-4987\)](#)
 - [Israel Hadassah Registry \(ION-5239\)](#)
 - [India DKMS-BMST Foundation by intermediary of DKMS Registry \(ION-9935\)](#)
 - [Italy Italian Bone Marrow Donor Registry \(ION-1055\)](#)
 - [Japan Marrow Donor Program - JMDP \(ION-4364\)](#)
 - [Korea Marrow Donor Program -KMDP \(WO-1058\)](#)
 - [Netherlands Matchis \(ION-8139\)](#)
 - [Norway Norwegian Bone Marrow Donor Registry \(ION-7214\)](#)
 - [Poland Poltransplant \(ION-5391\)](#)
 - [Portugal Cedace \(ION-7358\)](#)
 - [Romanian National Registry of Hematopoietic Stem Cells Voluntary Donors \(ION 1372\)](#)
 - [Russia Karelian Registry of Hematopoietic Stem Cells \(ION-8256\)](#)
 - [Singapore Bone Marrow Donor Programme \(ION-3785\)](#)
 - [South Africa South African Bone Marrow Registry \(ION-8118\)](#)
 - [Spain Registro de Donantes de Médula Ósea \(REDMO\) \(ION-7813\)](#)
 - [Sweden Tobias Registry Sweden Bone Marrow Donor Registry \(ION-5285\)](#)
 - [Switzerland Blutspende SRK Schweiz \(Swiss Blood Stem Cells\) \(ION-9341\)](#)
 - [Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center - BTCSCC \(ION-3458\)](#)
 - [Thailand Thai National Stem Cell Donor Registry - TSCDR \(ION-8362\)](#)
 - [Turkey - TRAN and TRIS \(ION-5509 and ION-3893\)](#)
 - [United Kingdom, Anthony Nolan \(ION-6354\)](#)
 - [United Kingdom British Bone Marrow Registry \(ION-2731\)](#)
 - [United States Be The Match-NMDP Registry \(ION-3553\)](#)
 - [United States Gift of Life Registry \(ION-1033\)](#)

WMDA Webinars on COVID-19

- [Tuesday, May 19th: Update of the WMDA S\(P\)EAR Committee in the meeting of the EU Competent Authorities.](#)

- [Tuesday, April 14th: Gift of Life Marrow Registry](#) - introducing their new Hybrid Virtual Physical Exam for physical exams, by Jay Feinberg and panelists Bruce Lenes MD, Richaele Nichiporenko, DNP, Lindsey Greenberg, RN
- [Thursday, April 9th: Singapore BMDP](#) - ensuring continuity of care and sharing their experience: In this webinar Charles Loh, Elaine Tan and Louise Cho, from the Singapore BMDP, explain how their registry is ensuring continuity of care. They share valuable and practical information on how to operate as a team during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Tuesday, April 7th: NMDP](#) - ensuring continuity of care and sharing experiences: In this webinar Steven Devine of NMDP-Be the Match shares his experience and tells about all the actions NMDP-Be the Match is taking to ensuring continuity of care for patients and donors worldwide.
- [Monday, April 6th \(15:00 CEST\):How to ensure unrelated donor grafts and CAR-T Cell Products during the Corona pandemic:](#) joint webinar by EBMT and WMDA. View the presentation [here](#).
- [Thursday, April 2nd: Italian BMDR](#) - ensuring continuity of care and sharing their experience: In this webinar Nicoletta Sacchi, from the Italian BMDR, shares her experience. She tells how IBMDR is ensuring continuity of care and how they managed the last few weeks during the COVID-19 crisis, which has hit Italy so very hard.
- [Tuesday, March 31: ZKRD](#) - ensuring continuity of care and sharing their experience: In this webinar Fabian Bosbach and Carlheinz Müller, from ZKRD, share their experience. They explain how ZKRD is ensuring continuity of care and how they are coping with this new reality we're faced with.
- [Friday, March 27: Donor care – medical aspects:](#) Our medical team explains the donor suitability criteria and respond to the questions you may have for donor care. Please note that we suffered a technical issue, resulting in problems with the sound during the first minutes. During the Q&A, after 9:09 minutes, the problem is solved. Find Mirjam's presentation [here](#).
- [Thursday, March 26: Cord Blood Selection Service:](#) Irina Evseeva of Anthony Nolan explains what support you will receive from the cord blood selection service and how it works. Find Irina's presentation [here](#).
- [Wednesday, March 25: WMDA International Emergency Task Force – Transport challenges:](#) Gabi Rall of DKMS gives you an update on the work that has been done by the WMDA International Emergency Task Force and explore with you how they can support you more in the next weeks. Find Gabi's presentation [here](#).

Professional Societies

AABB: [link](#)

American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT): [link](#), new May 20th, watch [here](#) the joint ASTCT/NMDP webinar.

European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT): [link](#), new May 18th. Click [here](#).

Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT): [link](#)

World Marrow Donor Association (WMDA)

- [May 4:](#) Rapid alert of cryopreservation submitted by the S(P)EAR Committee: [SEAR Rapid Alert](#)
- [April 15:](#) Donor suitability criteria defined by the WMDA Donor Suitability Committee
- [March 26:](#) [European waiver](#) and link to [European information](#)
- [March 25:](#) Support from WMDA International Emergency Task Force: [link to request](#) for assistance
- [March 25:](#) WMDA Cord Blood Selection Service: [link to request for assistance here](#).
- [Frequently Asked Questions from WMDA members](#) (only for WMDA members)

Worldwide Network For Blood & Marrow Transplantation (WBMT): [link](#)

Courier Information

Ontime Onboard Courier/ECS

We are constantly monitoring all developments, which involves being in contact with relevant customers about possible scenarios and solutions. We are also working on Plan Bs and Cs to make sure the live saving product is securely transported from the donor to the patient in need. Selection of the most suitable couriers and transport routing is as always our highest priority! Please feel free to contact us anytime, if questions or queries occur: onboard@ontimecourier.com We are always happy to assist you.

Time:matters

Time:matters Stem Cell Courier Services are operational and we continue to tailor stem cell courier transport solutions worldwide within the existing legal limits and currently existing travel restrictions. We exchange on a regular basis information within the international WMDA Emergency Task Force working on transport contingency plans for the entire WMDA community. Currently, the biggest challenge for transport planning are the short-term changes in international travel (e.g.immigration restrictions, flight availability, quarantine protocols), which require flexibility from all parties involved. Therefore, we recommend that TCs and registries contact their authorities at an early stage that they can apply for an possible exemption for stem cell couriers when travel restrictions are introduced or tightened. In this crisis time:matters Group will follow the official advise of WHO, respective national governments, state governments and Lufthansa Group! Please contact our stem cell team at stemcell@time-matters.com for any inquiries. Existing bookings will be administered and reassessed in connection with the changed regulation. We will contact you proactively if we need to discuss alternative options.

WMDA registries

DKMS (Germany, Poland, US, UK, India and Chile)

Read [here](#) information from DKMS how they can organise a health availability check without blood collection instead of conventional Confirmatory /Verification Typing. In addition, DKMS implemented the following globally on Bone Marrow Collection and Unstimulated Leukapheresis (DLI) requests:

- Bone Marrow Collection:
 - BM collection capacities might collapse due to staff reasons, need for ICU beds, or availability of ventilators at short notice. Therefore, in the current situation BM products should be reserved for those patients where PBSC is no option, especially small children and recipients with non-malignant conditions. Thus, we will ask you for a reason for each non-obvious BM request.
 - We strongly recommend to switch any bone marrow request to PBSC where medically feasible. We will still accept BM requests, and do everything possible to continue, but we can no longer ensure that we will be able to collect this product to the same extent as we could for PBSC.
 - Lower-than-requested cell counts are often observed in BM products. Please be aware of additional cryopreservation-associated cell loss when you make decisions on cryopreservation of BM products, especially for adult patients and in cases with unfavorable donor-patient weight ratio. If the expected viable cell content after cryopreservation is below the threshold for a promising transplantation, the collection unit might not be able to clear the donor for BM donation.
- Unstimulated Leukapheresis
 - As long as apheresis capacities are not seriously hampered, we will still accept DLI requests, but we can no longer ensure that we will be able to collect the product to the same extent as we could for PBSC. We might be forced to cancel or postpone especially prophylactic T cell collections.
 - Due to the unclear availability of DLI products, we urge all transplant centers to cryopreserve lymphocytes from T cell depletion or any other HSC product manipulation step.

Australia Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-7748)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/CRJcAQ>
- **Update April 20:**
 - Australia has implemented stringent border controls for both international and domestic travellers requiring all international collections to be cryopreserved at source and transported via dry shipper.
 - **Search:** ABMDR is accepting search requests from transplant centres and registries as usual
 - **VT & Workup:** Information regarding Donor Health and Availability, Extended Typing, VT/Workup and Transportation requirements can be found on the ABMDR website:<https://www.abmdr.org.au/covid-19-bmt-guidance/>

Belgium Marrow Donor Programme Belgium - MDPB (ION-4201)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/QxJcAQ>
- [Waiver](#)
- **Update April 2:** The MDPB applies the following policy in line with the guidelines for blood donors:
 - Deferral after COVID-19 infection = **28 days** after symptoms resolution and end of the treatment
 - Deferral after contact with a COVID-19 patient = **28 days**
 - Deferral after travel or contact with a person who traveled in a high-risk area = **no defer**
 - Suitability of the donor must be evaluated on COVID-19 symptoms: gastrointestinal & fever & respiratory symptoms in the last 28 days. And on exhaustive interrogation on possible contacts with COVID-19 patients, **the last 28 days** is mandatory
 - PCR or antibody testing of the donor is **not needed**.
 - **Source freezing** is an option for intercontinental or airplane transportation. Not for quarantine reason but for travel hurdles.
 - Post-donation donor information in case of complaints till **14 days** after the donation is advised.

Canada Canadian Blood Services Stem Cell Registry (ION-5103)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/fxJcAQ>
- **Update May 27:**
 - **Document 1:** interim order to prevent certain persons from boarding flights to Canada due to COVID-19, No. 6
 - **Document 2:** Minimizing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (prohibition of Entry into Canada from the United States)
 - **Document 3:** Minimizing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States)
 - **Direct link:** Minimizing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order (Mandatory Isolation, with exemptions), No. 2
 - **General information.**
 - Contact information: Gail Morris: gail.morris@blood.ca

Canada Héma-Québec Registry (ION-6912)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/eRJcAQ>
- **Update March 18:** As of March 18th, international flights will be permitted to land only at the international airports in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has issued a statement in which he announced that Canada is barring entry to all travellers who are not Canadian citizens, permanent residents or Americans. There does not seem to be any restriction for Canadians leaving the country but no person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be allowed to board a plane to Canada and air operators will be required to complete a basic health assessment of every passenger based on guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada. All returning travellers will have to undergo a 14 day isolation period prior to resuming normal activities. These measures will be in place until further notice but the Prime Minister warns that they are subject to change as the situation progresses. Héma-Québec is working closely with Canadian Blood Services and courier services in order to find solutions to minimize the impact on international stem cell transportation and will follow-up with relevant up-dates on the situation.

China Marrow Donor Programme - CMDP (ION-2197)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/mRJcAQ>
- **Update March 3:**

- **Policy:** In response to the novel coronavirus (currently named COVID-19), CMDP has established the policy of hematopoietic stem cell donation for the period of epidemic prevention & control according to Chinese government's request and the WMDA's guidance. In the current situation, the work of CMDP is suffering some limitations and could not be carried out normally as before. But for individual cases, especially for those in critical condition and have no alternative treatment, CMDP would assess relevant risks and feasibility, and make reasonable arrangements so as to ensure the safety of donors, patients and employees of CMDP.
- **Postpone donation:** According to the novel coronavirus – guidance of WMDA, it is recommended to postpone donation in case of donors coming from risk area, or contacting with a confirmed case, or with History of COVID-19 infection. The deferred period would follow the WMDA's guidance.
- **Search & Match:** CMDP accepts searching request from overseas registries as usual. The follow-up procedures might be affected by a lot of factors, 1) local situation of infection prevention and control where matched donors reside, 2) donors' history of travel and close contact with COVID-19 infection, 3) the safety measures and capability of relevant PE center and collection center, and 4) the willingness of donors and their families in such situations.
- **CT requests:** Due to the spread of COVID-19 around the world, Hong Kong SAR government restricts entry of travelers from mainland China until 8th May. As a result, CT blood samples from CMDP donors could not be shipped to oversea destinations during this period. This situation might be adjusted according to the decision of Hong Kong SAR government.
- **Transplant and collection plan:** CMDP will make suggestions based on situation of collection center and donor's local infection prevention & control condition, which will be finalized by both parties on the premise of flight confirmed.

CMDP would report to WMDA if any critical contingency occurs.

And we are grateful to the understanding of worldwide registries as to this special situation.

Let's work together to get through this hard time.

Thank you!

Croatia Croatian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-5712)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/uRJcAQ>
- **Update April 1:**
 - **CBMDR Registry personnel** - Working mainly from home. All international registries can contact us as usual, by emails and / or mobile phones: 00 385 91 49 20 585 Nika Kalogjera, MD, Director (also emergency number!) and 00 385 91 49 21 178 Josipa Canic, office manager
 - **Search requests** - CBMDR registry is accepting search requests from international registries as usual.
 - **CT process** - CBMDR registry will temporarily stop providing blood samples at the VT stage for HLA typing and IDM testing's. Due to the current COVID -19 situation, from 1st April until further notice, CBMDR will no longer send blood samples abroad. When contacting donors, we will check donor's availability and perform the health history screening questionnaire, which includes also screening for COVID-19 exposure or infection. If further HLA typing is necessary, it will be carried out at any moment prior and closest to the donation process.
 - **Work up requests** - CBMDR accept work-up request as usual. Please send requests for CT blood samples together with work up requests, as blood samples will be taken in addition to the pre-collection samples. Our recommendation for all transplant centers is to ask for PBSC collections (in accordance with EBMT guidelines) and to cryopreserve stem cells . Please note that all donors will be tested on COVID-19 before starting G-CSF stimulation and day before collection. They are all advised and educated to follow standard hygiene measures and to respect social isolation before donation. After the donation, all donors will be followed up for any possible symptoms of COVID-19.

Cyprus Cyprus Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-9751)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/xxJcAQ>
- **Update May 25:** Information regarding COVID-19 measures at Larnaka & Pafos Airports. Important Announcement: Within the framework of the measures announced by the Republic of Cyprus regarding the gradual easing of the restrictions in flights operated to and from Larnaka and Pafos Airport, the action plan foresees two phases for the opening of the airports and the restoration of Cyprus' connectivity with other countries, as follows:
 - PHASE A: 9 – 19 June 2020
 - PHASE B: 20 June 2020

The classification of the countries was made based on their current epidemiological data. To this extend, two categories were created including countries with which connectivity is restored.

Category A: Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, Norway, Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Hungary, Israel, Denmark, Germany, Slovakia, Lithuania.

Category B: Switzerland, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Estonia and the Czech Republic.

During **Phase A**, whoever arrives from the countries included **both categories**, will have to furnish a clear Covid-19 test from a certified laboratory to be allowed onboard. The test should have a negative result and be conducted within 72 hours before departure. Cypriot citizens and permanent residents in Cyprus, also have the opportunity to take the test upon their arrival in Cyprus. In this case and until the test results are issued, they are to remain in self-isolation at home.

During **Phase B**, which commences on 20 June, any passenger arriving from countries belonging in Category A, will **not** need to have a test in place.

For passengers arriving from countries included in Category B, will continue to need a clear COVID19 test issued 72 hours before their departure in order to be allowed onboard. Cypriot nationals and legal residents from those countries will be able to take the test upon their arrival to the island. In such an occasion and until the test results are issued, they will remain in self-isolation at home.

For all other countries which are **not included in the two categories**, at any given time, the Republic of Cyprus will allow flights carrying solely Cypriot citizens and people to whom special permission will be granted.

In this occasion, they would have to furnish a clear Covid-19 test conducted 72 hours previously, before they are allowed to board an aircraft to Cyprus. Alternatively, the test can be conducted upon their arrival to Cyprus, however passengers will remain at a designated area for 1 day or until the test results are issued.

All passengers arriving from countries which are not included in the two categories, will be transported to their houses to undergo a 14 day self-isolation. The cost for the laboratory test as well as the quarantine/self-isolation/transportation cost will be paid by the passenger.

In countries where it is verified that the Authorities cannot provide laboratory test services, and in order to facilitate those passengers interested to travel to Cyprus, this facility will be provided upon their arrival in Cyprus.

The Ministry of Health will continue to evaluate the epidemiological data of the countries, in order to validate the inclusion of the countries in the abovementioned categories. In the following days, additional countries will be announced.

As of Monday, May 25 at 6am, people who are currently in quarantine will be allowed to go home and spend the remaining days in self-isolation, based on the category of their country of origin.

Those repatriating between May 25 and June 8 will be tested upon arrival and remain for one day at a designated place or until the result is issued. They will then go home and self-isolate for seven days if arriving from countries included in the two categories and 14 days if arriving from other countries.

- **Update May 11:** The Minister of Transport of the Republic of Cyprus extended by decree the ban on flights in the framework of measures to contain Covid-19. According to the relevant announcement, as of 24:00 local time on April 18, the ban on flights will remain in force until 28 May. Excluded from the ban, in addition to the categories previously announced as excepted, are technical flights which will be allowed by special permit from the flight safety unit of the Department of Civil Aviation.

Czechia Czech National Marrow Donor Registry Plze (ION-5440)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/1xJcAQ>
- **Update March 18:** Czech borders are closed for all non-citizens from 13.03.2020 with some exceptions including transport of the stem cell graft. The complete information is provided here <https://www.mvcr.cz/docDetail.aspx?docid=22239939&docType=ART>.

Permit letter is required to confirm the courier/courier company performs activities ensuring the provision of basic needs of life of citizens of the state. The permit letter will be issued by our registry/health authorities and is [provided here](#).

Search:

- CNMDR accepts searching request from transplant centres and registries as usual, without any restrictions

VT & Workup:

- CNMDR advises the Czechia transplant centres to consider selecting local (national) donors other than foreign ones to avoid any delays or cancellations due to travel restrictions.
- To clarify the risk of infection on donors, CNMDR surveys the donors at both VT & Workup stages. If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to the risk area, the donation process on the donors will be deferred for four (4) weeks. The transplant centre will be notified immediately once an ineligibility or deferral is determined.
- CNMDR will also survey the donors 14 days after the collections to determine if the donors are at the risk of COVID-19 infection and will notify the transplant centre as needed.

Organisation of HSC product export and import:

- CNMDR will assess each shipment of HSC product individually according to the country from or to the product is shipped.
- In general, any export of a HSC product from the CNMDR donor abroad is primarily ensured by a receiving registry or transplant centre in close cooperation with CNMDR. CNMDR provides the partner organization with all information and documents regarding measures in Czechia, including necessary permit letters to allow traveling with product.
- The import to the Czech Republic will be arranged in close cooperation with the partner registry and its contracted collection centre, depending on the country's COVID-19 measures and restrictions. CNMDR provides the partner organization with all information and documents regarding measures in Czechia, including necessary permit letters to allow traveling with product.

Czechia Czech Stem Cell Registry (ION-4753)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/3xJcAQ>
- **Update April 30:**
 - Czech Stem Cells Registry is fully operational. Please kindly send **all communication** via e-mail: cscr-prague@ikem.cz
 - Emergency state in the Czech Republic has been prolonged till 17th of May, however the restrictions are gradually loosening.
 - We renew VTs from 4th May in case donor is willing to proceed. If donor is not willing to travel to DC for the time being, we will perform health and availability check instead. Donor will be reserved for 2 months. Samples for VT will be drawn as pre-collection.
 - We can offer full typing from frozen sample (if available).

Information for couriers:

- Czech borders are closed for all non-citizens with some exceptions including transport of the stem cell graft. **Permit letters are required** – registry issues permit for each transport.
- Please note that **foreign courier is allowed to stay in the Czech Republic only less than 24 hours** and hotel services are very limited.
- **CSCR may provide courier service with hand over at the border crossing.**
- **From March 19th, 2020, it is forbidden to go outside without protective equipment of respiratory tract** (nose, mouth) as respirator, mask, scarf, shawl or other equipment, which can stop spread of droplets.
- Information from Czech Ministry of Internal Affairs <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/coronavirus-information-of-moi.aspx>

Denmark Danish Stem Cell Donors East (ION-7484)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/display/WMDAREG/Operational+Information+ION-7484#/>
- **Update March 26:** The registry stays operational. We can be reached on telephone (+45) 3545 3970 during normal working hours or by E-mail DS.DE.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk.
 - Donors follow the national laws and recommendations from the Danish Government and Danish Health Authority.
 - The registry accepts cryopreservation of products.
 - Danish borders are closed but transportation of hematopoietic stem cell products for Danish or international patients is accepted as one of the creditable exceptions. The registry makes individual arrangements for each transport. The registry informs the police on the border when a transportation has been arranged. Additionally, the registry will provide the courier with a documentation to show at the border including a 24/7 telephone number to the medical director of the registry.

Denmark Stem Cell Donors West (ION-2015)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/6xJcAQ>
- **Update March 19:** The registry stays operational. It varies if staff is working home or will be in the office. You will always be able to reach us by e-mail using: skejby.dbmdr@rm.dk
 - Donors is routinely asked about travel activity within last 6 months and if they have any flu-like symptoms
 - Donors are advised to follow the safety measures from the Danish Government and health care authority.
 - We will accept that product are cryopreserved.
 - The Danish borders are closed, but persons with a creditable purpose are allowed to enter. Medicine is considered a creditable purpose. The registry will provide documentation for the courier to show at the border that will allow them to travel to the Transplant Center or Collection Center. The documentation will include a 24/7 phone number for the border police to confirm the purpose of the courier, if needed. link to attached file: "[collection – permission for border](#)"

Finnish Stem Cell Registry - FSCR (ION-9738)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/9RJcAQ>
- **Update May 20:**
 - **Cryopreservation of grafts:** The FSCR registry accepts higher cell count requests due to cryopreservation.
 - **PBSC:** Requests for $6 - 10 \times 10^6$ CD34+ / kg BW of the recipient are accepted. However, if the result of the first day of apheresis is $> 6 \times 10^6$ CD34+, continuing the collection on the second day will be determined by the collection center physician. For pediatric patients, even higher cell counts per kg patient BW may be acceptable.
 - **BM:** we cannot accept any requests that would lead to collection of more than 20mL / kg donor weight (TNC content is usually 15 – 20 $\times 10^6$ / mL).
- **Update April 17:**
 - **Search:** FSCR accepts search requests from registries and domestic transplant centers as usual, without Covid-19 related restrictions.
 - **CT and Workup Requests:** Requests will be accepted as usual. To clarify the donor's risk of infection, questioning has been extended for both CT and workup. We seek to minimize contacts for our donors. Thus, we recommend changing over from CT with blood samples to the Health & Availability Check in the case of well-typed donors. If donors develop symptoms related to Covid-19 during the work-up period, they will be tested for SARS-CoV-2, but routine testing of donors or products is not performed. The transplant center will be notified immediately once ineligibility or deferral has been determined. BM harvests may be more difficult to arrange, and there may be last minute changes in graft source. We recommend opting for PBSC whenever possible
 - **Transport, Import and Export:** Restrictions in air travel to and from Finland continue to increase and we are trying to obtain more information from the responsible government authorities. Currently couriers can enter the country. However, they may only pass or receive the graft to or from a registry representative, and then go directly to an airport hotel and remain in quarantine-like conditions until their return flight. All trips must be made by taxi; no use of public transport is permitted. In case a courier is experiencing problems at the Finnish border, please call this mobile number: +358-50-396-9450.

France France Greffe De Moelle - FGM (ION-1804)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/AxNcAQ>
- **Update May 27:**
- Official statement, [link](#) (3rd stage of COVID-19 epidemic)
 - **FGM Registry Personnel:** FGM staff will progressively be returning to FGM offices, current mail/cell phone numbers can still be used. For any urgent situation, please use the Emergency contact email and/or telephone: emergency.fgm@biomedecine.fr / +33-6-88 22 35 28.
 - **Search requests:** FGM registry is accepting search requests from international registries as usual.
 - **CT-process:** FGM is now able to provide again blood samples at the VT stage for HLA typing and IDMT testings. When contacting donors, donor centers will still check donor availability and perform the health history screening questionnaire, which continue to include screening for COVID-19 exposure.
 - **Work-up requests:** FGM registry will accept work-up requests as usual. All donors are asked about travel history, upcoming travel and exposure to COVID-19 within the last 28 days. BM collections can again be requested, but the feasibility of the collection procedure will be discussed on a case to case basis.
 - **Stem cell donation recommendations:** Recommendations of the national health competent authorities (without prejudice to any other measures concerning other infectious agents):
 - Donor qualification: The donor biological eligibility is carried out by testing the donor for the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by gene amplification (RT-PCR) on a naso-pharyngeal swab [or, if impossible, on a blood sample (whole blood, serum or plasma)]. The results are transmitted upon reception to the transplant team. All donors are tested for SARS-CoV-2 before the start of GCSF stimulation and close to the day of donation. Donors are asked to follow safety hygiene measures and are followed-up after the donation in order to detect any symptoms of Covid-19. For donors having experienced documented SARS-CoV-2 infection, a stem cell collection can be accepted 28 days after the resolution of symptoms.
 - **Transport of HPC collected from French donors or international donors:**
 - Border documents required by the national authorities are still mandatory until all borders closure have been cancelled.
 - Cryopreservation of all unrelated products remains recommended at their reception by the transplant center facility, before the patient's conditioning starts. This recommendation is submitted to evolution according to the epidemic situation.

Germany ZKRD (ION-6939)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/FxNcAQ>
- **Update March 19: ZKRD Operative Information during COVID-19.** ZKRD is working from remote. Main way of contact should be via email. Despite that, our emergency numbers are available as usual 24/7. Find [here](#) the complete information and [the waiver](#).
 - **Search:** ZKRD accepts search request from transplant centres and registries as usual, without any restrictions.
 - **CT and Workup Requests:** Requests will be accepted as usual although provision of blood samples for confirmatory typing has become more challenging. We expect our partners to ensure that testing of samples provided is still available. To clarify the donor's risk of infection, questioning has been extended for both CT and workup. If donors have relevant symptoms, a history of contact with COVID-

19 cases or have been exposed to the risk area, the donors will be deferred for 4 weeks. The transplant centre will be notified immediately once ineligibility or deferral has been determined. There will be no test for SARS-CoV-2 performed on the respective donor or product, as there is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted via bone marrow, blood or any blood product.

- **Transport, Import and Export:** For products involving **DKMS** donors: In case a courier is experiencing problems at the German border when entering or leaving Germany, you can call this mobile number: +49 174 192 59 36. For products from **all other German donor centers**, please call the following number of ZKRD's Transport Management for assistance if you experience difficulties at the German border: +49 731 1507 201. Please note that currently the ZKRD recommends to use couriers from **Ontime** and **time:matters** for pick-ups to or from international centers. Restrictions in air travel to and from Germany from countries outside the EU continue to increase and we are trying to obtain more information from the responsible government authorities. Currently citizens of non-EU countries will only be permitted to enter the country in cases of documented urgent need. All affected registries providing their own couriers should closely monitor travel restrictions and remain in contact with Transport Management. Despite controlled access at the borders to Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and France, ground transport of stem cells is still possible.

Hungary Hungarian Stem Cell Donor Registry (ION-1695)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/NRNcAQ>
- **Update March 30:**
 - **Search:** The Registry operates mostly full capacity. We are available via email (hbmdr@ovsz.hu). The Hungarian blood stem cell transplant activity is going on but we are also impacted by the restrictive measures that affect both courier travels and donor selection policies.
 - **VT & Workup:** HBMDR accepts searching request from registries as usual, though we are facing many challenges with getting blood samples and shipment to certain countries. Curfew restrictions will apply between March 28, 2020 until May 11, 2020. with some exceptions. To clarify the risk of infection on donors: If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to the risk area, the donation process on the donors will be deferred for four (4) weeks (according to the EBMT guideline).
 - **Organisation of HSC product export and import:** Hungarian borders are closed for all non-citizens from March 17, 2020 with some exceptions Permit letter is required. HBMDR provides the partner organization with permit letters to allow traveling with product. We are working hard with competent authorities to find suitable solutions for each transport individually and we are in close contact with the relevant registries and transport company. The emergency call number is: +36 30 5319502. In order to prevent any risk of harm to the recipients, our medical committee strongly recommend allow the transplant centers to cryopreserve the products upon receipt and to start the conditioning regimen only after safe arrival of the product.

Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-4070)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/pxJcAQ>
- **Update February 12:**
 - Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry is facing a very difficult situation with risk of a lot of local infections and travel restrictions from /to other countries. At the moment, Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry will continue to provide hematopoietic stem cell donations for those confirmed cases both local and overseas. As it is uncertain when the infection will be settled, after seeking our hospital authority agreement, Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry will temporarily suspend to provide CT and work up for overseas patients. At the same time, Hong Kong Bone Marrow Donor Registry advises the Hong Kong transplant centres to consider selecting local donors other than overseas to avoid any delay or disappointment due to travel restrictions. The transplant centres in Hong Kong are also advised to use cord blood units which are readily available.

Please note there is also issue of our donors willingness to attend our facility for work up and donation. They express worries to visit health care facilities. Anyway, it is very challenging to healthcare system, public health, HSC and blood supply. WE are learning everyday. Kindly note: these precautions are implemented to act for the best interest of patients, donors and HSC products. To avoid unnecessary delay and disappointment due to travel restriction, alternative strategies though not the best one should be considered.

Israel Ezer Mizion Registry Israel Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-4987)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/hRNcAQ>; statement, [for print](#).
- **Update May 6:** see attachment [here](#).
- Ezer Mizion registry is committed to continue and provide stem cells to patients all over the world; however our operations are impacted by the COVID-19 situation. The following updates are provided:
 - **GENERAL** Ezer Mizion Registry is fully operational. Our emergency numbers are available as usual 24/7.
 - **DONOR AVAILABILITY** The number of new COVID-19 cases continues to decline significantly and the Israeli MOH approved a series of steps to ease the lockdown restrictions on the general population. Therefore currently we do not expect unusual barriers regarding our donors' availability and CT and WU requests will be accepted as usual.
 - **CRYOPRESERVATION OF PRODUCTS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** Due to the continuous situation of borders closing, low availability of flights and travel bans we continue to request that all products should be cryopreserved by the TC for every collection until further notice.
 - **HEALTH SCREENING** To clarify the risk of infection on donors, we implemented a designated questionnaire in order to survey the donors for COVID-19 symptoms for both CT and WU. If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to a risk area, the donation process on the donors will be deferred for four (4) weeks. We also carefully monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before initiation of Neupogen injections and stem cells collection. The transplant centre will be notified immediately once an ineligibility or deferral is determined. We do not perform routine SARS-CoV-2 screening test. The donors are surveyed 14 days after the collections to determine if they are at risk of COVID-19 infection and will notify the transplant center as needed.
 - **BONE MARROW COLLECTION** BM harvests may be more difficult to arrange, and there may be last minute changes in graft source. We recommend opting for PBSC whenever medically possible.
 - **COURIER SERVICES** Due to the restrictions imposed on foreigners to enter Israel and the continued lack of flights, we will only be able to process new WU requests with courier transport services provided by the Israeli branch of "Royale International group" company. We will not be able to proceed to WU if the requesting registries persist on sending their own couriers. Information regarding the company's services is available at: <https://www.royaleinternational.com/>. We will work with the relevant registries regarding the specific customs requirements needed in every country to facilitate the product

transport. Please note that due to specific security arrangements which are required at TLV airport, the courier costs will be higher than usual.

- **CONTACT INFORMATION** Yehudit Eitiel: yhudit@bmdr.org.il +972-52-9580059 and Sigal Manor: sigal@bmdr.org.il +972-52-9580039.

Israel Hadassah Registry (ION-5239)

- **Update May 28:** Hadassah registry operates in full format and provide maximum response to every request from the transplant centres. Hadassah Registry has added to the donors health questions, the questions about the corona as requested by WMDA at the CT questionnaire and the WU questionnaire. In case of suspicions about the donor we will update the transplant centre.
 - PBSC - The apheresis unit located within the hospital performs the procedure while strictly all precautions required during the Corona virus period.
 - BM - bone marrow collections will continue as usual at the Hadassah Hospital accordance with the procedures of the MOH.
 - The State of Israel is currently approving a series of relief measures related to the Corona virus, so we have the maximum availability for CT and WU requests .
We are not expect barriers regarding our donors availability and we can provide maximum response for donations requests
 - Transfers: we transfer the product through ICL company which specialize in complex transports and operate under the guidelines of all countries because of Covid-19 restrictions, before we close the shipping, we ask for a quote and send for the approval from the transplant centre.
 - In order to simplify the shipping process we will pay directly to ICL and we will charge the payment from the transplant centre.

India DKMS-BMST Foundation by intermediary of DKMS Registry (ION-9935)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/d4JGE>
- **Update May 25:**
 - **Health & Availability Check (HAC):** We recommend a Health & Availability Check (HAC) instead of requesting a CT. A HAC request includes a donor health history questionnaire as well as an information session with the donor. Please be aware that a CT testing has to be performed before transplantation. Therefore, for donors without regular CT, a CT + Workup request (CT/WU-Combo) has to be requested, where CT samples are then taken in addition to the pre-collection samples on the day of donor's physical examination.
 - **Workup requests and transport of stem cell product:** Due to the necessity for cryopreservation higher cell counts are accepted, as long as the requested cell count is reasonable and does not place the donor under a higher risk. DKMS has so far been able to ensure that every stem cell product has safely reached its recipient wherever they have been around the world. However, for some countries we are still facing challenges regarding the transport and we ask you to be flexible regarding the date of collection and the delivery date of the stem cells in your country. DKMS-BMST is prepared to support you in importing stem cells to India. Transports to and from India have been successfully tested. Even if domestic flights are operating again, a transport in India requires preparation time which should be considered.

Italy Italian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-1055)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/qxNcAQ>
- **Update March 17:**
 - **IBMDR donations**
Our National Competent authority redefined the timing of Covid-19 testing.
 - Donation for patient already conditioned: even though we strongly suggest the cryopreservation of the collected product before the beginning of patient conditioning regimen, the donors will be tested before the patient starts its prep;
 - Donation for patient not yet conditioned: the donors will be tested preferably within 7 days before collection, latest on the date of collection.
 - In both cases, the donors are asked to stay in quarantine before collection and will be followed up after the donation in order to check any symptoms of Covid-19 infection
 - **Transport of HPC collected on Italian donors**
 - Most flights have been cancelled, so it is even more difficult to organize the transports of HPCs. As previously reported we would suggest to arrive in Rome FCO and we may assist your courier in order to have the handover of the product directly at the airport.
 - **Transport of peripheral blood samples to International countries**
Due to the cancellation of most flights and restrictions made by International countries (EU and extra-EU), we have been informed by our shipping company, that they are facing problem in order to carry the packages on passenger or cargo flights, this may cause delay in the delivery.
 - **IBMDR personnel home-working**
Since yesterday, the majority of IBMDR personnel is working at home. International centers can continue to contact IBMDR as usual, by phone, fax and e-mails. Questions? Mail: ibmdr@ibmdr.galliera.it or +39 01 056 344 34-35

Japan Marrow Donor Program - JMDP (ION-4364)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/vRNcAQ>
- **Update March 26:** To whom it may concern: We would like to update the Japanese current situation regarding the pandemic of COVID-19. JMDP staff is working at the offices as usual, and there are no restrictions on proceeding with every coordination stage. In effort to identify donors who may have or be at risk for contracting COVID-19, JMDP has been screening donors from the initial stage. All donors are instructed to inform us of any changes in their health status.
- **JMDP have updated the donor suitability criteria:**
 - If either question below is answered as **Yes**, the donor will be released:
 1. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
 2. Have you been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with coronavirus infection?
 3. (To a donor candidate with fever; a temperature of 37.5 or higher and/or with *respiratory* problems), have you traveled to a high-risk country* in the last 14 days? *high-risk country : signed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
 4. Have you been in close contact with anyone who have the fever (a temperature of 37.5 or higher), *respiratory* problems, and traveled to a high-risk country within the last 14 days?

5. Have you traveled overseas within the last 4 weeks?
 6. Have you been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with coronavirus infection within the last 4 weeks?
- If either question below is answered as **Yes**, the information will be provided to the transplant center and the transplant center will decide whether to proceed with the donor
 1. Has it passed over 3 months since you recovered from COVID-19?
 2. Have you traveled to a high-risk country within the last 3 months? (In the case of within the past 4 weeks, please refer to A-5.)
 3. Have you been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with coronavirus infection within the last 3 months? (In the case of within the past 4 weeks, please refer to A-6.)
 - **To transplant centres abroad:** JMDF will do the best to coordinate our donors for your recipients according to your request, although some difficulties exist over Covid -9 pandemic. For the transportation of HSC from Japan to your country, we announce the followings;
 1. In case that fresh BM or PB is requested, it will be transferred at the appropriate airport from Japanese courier to the courier from your country.
 2. In case that a TC plans to cryopreserve the JMDF donor PBSC and asks Japanese harvest center to cryopreserve it, AC will cryopreserve it.
 3. In case that a TC plans to cryopreserve the JMDF donor BM and asks Japanese collection center to cryopreserve it, it may be difficult depending on CC.
 4. When cryopreserved product is required, please prepare a dry shipper by yourself.

We will continue to update as the COVID-19 situation changes.

Korea Marrow Donor Program -KMDP (WO-1058)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/iwCZDw>
- **Update February 27:**
 - Since last few days we have been experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 in mainly some certain regions. On February 23, the Korean Government raised the national alert for the COVID-19 outbreak to the highest level of "serious." The four-tier alert level comprises "attention," "caution," "alert" and "serious,"
 - **Search:** KMDP accepts searching request from overseas registries as usual.
 - **CT & Workup:** To clarify the risk of infection on donors, KMDP surveys the donors at CT & Workup stages. If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to the risk area, the donation process on the donors will be deferred for four (4) weeks. The transplant center will be notified once an ineligibility or deferral is determined. KMDP will temporarily suspend to collect CT samples and workup of donors in certain risk areas for safety reason.
 - **General comment:** KMDP is not able to test Coronavirus of all stem cell donors as the government performs suspected cases as the first priority around 3,000 cases per day, KMDP donors will be tested if the donor has history of risk factors and certain risk regions.

Netherlands Matchis (ION-8139)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/yRRcAQ>
- **Update March 19**, download waiver [here](#).
- Official statement of the registry, [here](#).

Norway Norwegian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-7214)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/-xNcAQ>
- **Update March 23:** [waiver](#)
- **Update March 16:**
 - Norwegian Authorities has, 13.3.2020, issued regulations on quarantine, etc. on arrival in Norway. It implements that a person on arrival in Norway must stay in quarantine for 14 days. Persons that do not have a residence permit in Norway will be expelled at the border. There are, however, possibilities for exceptions from the quarantine duty for persons who are strictly necessary to maintain the proper operation of critical social functions and attend to the basic needs of the population. **We have been given exception from the quarantine duty for stem cell couriers transporting stem cell products.** Non-Norwegian stem cell couriers will be provided with documentation that allows them to travel to our Transplant center and deliver the stem cell product. This exception can also be given for a courier transporting stem cells out of Norway, if needed (we have none exports planned for the first weeks coming). If this becomes difficult to handle we will organize hand over of stem cell products at Gardermoen airport, Oslo. Persons covered by the exception in the first and second paragraphs shall, as far as possible, avoid close contact with other persons. Documentation needed for couriers: [document 1](#) and [document 2](#).

Poland Poltransplant (ION-5391)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/DxRcAQ>
- **Update March 14:** Yesterday the Polish government decided to close all air connections to Poland and all borders, since 15 of March all regular flights are cancelled. The only way to send transplant material abroad is via Germany and airport in Berlin. We are working hard on organization of transport for collections scheduled for week 16-22.03, addressing each case individually to ensure there is minimal impact to patients. Our DCs and CCs can transport the material to the border and hand on the cells to the courier from TC with the help of Polish border guards. It is not allowed to any foreign country citizen to enter Poland. Polish courier returning from abroad will have to stay in quarantine for 14 days. There is also a possibility of organizing special air transport via Okecie Airport in Warsaw. Our strong recommendation is planned cryopreservation of adult donor products so that arrival of the product can be confirmed prior to the start of patient conditioning. I trust that together we can face this difficult situation.

Portugal Cedace (ION-7358)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/FxRcAQ>
- **Update March 18:** read [here](#).

Romanian National Registry of Hematopoietic Stem Cells Voluntary Donors (ION 1372)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/GxRcAQ>
- **Update April 30:** On March 16th the authorities imposed significant restrictions on the general population in Romania: all citizens are requested to minimize their travelling to only essential daily needs until further notice. RNDVCSH - Romanian Registry is committed to continue and provide all the services, with some restrictions during the state of emergency that is prolonging till 15 of May (only emergency services allowed to be provided – BM collections and unrelated HSC transplants are recommended to be postpone). However, our operations are impacted by the COVID-19 situation. RNDVCSH - Romanian Registry staff is partially working from remote, but we are able to answer all phone calls at the office. We recommend that the main way of contact should be via EMDIS, email or fax. The following updates are provided:
 - **EXTENDED TYPING AND CONFIRMATORY (CT/VT) REQUESTS:** We are taking the requests for extended typing in all those cases where the laboratory still has blood samples storage. If there are not blood sample, we are conducting a willingness and health assessment of the donors, and if the blood drawn is not possible we cancel the extended typing request. Regarding CT VT/requests is our priority. We call donor for willingness and health, and if the donor is willing to travel for blood sample collection we can perform the requested service, if not we will postpone and the donor is reserved for 3 months.
 - **DONOR AVAILABILITY:** The restrictive traveling measures significantly affect our donors' availability. The scientific board of RNDVCSH highly recommend to national transplant centers/international registries to work closely with our case managers to identifying a backup donor/product and consider alternative options whenever possible (haplo-transplant). The travel of donors is a real challenge in this period.
 - **HEALTH SCREENING:** To clarify the risk of infection on donors, we implemented a designated questionnaire in order to survey the donors for COVID-19 symptoms. Donors with active confirmed COVID-19 are not eligible for HSC donation. If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (red areas of risk), the donation process of this donors will be deferred for four (4) weeks. The transplant centre will be notified immediately once an ineligibility or deferral is determined. We perform testing for COVID-19 (done by real-time PCR) at the work-up and if the donor pas the clearance, on the day of donation (the recommendation for eligible persons for real-time PCR test can be access here <http://www.cnscbt.ro/>).
 - **CRYOPRESERVATION OF PBSC PRODUCTS:** In order to prevent any risk of harm to the recipients, scientific board of RNDVCSH strongly recommend that all products be cryopreserved for every PBSC collection until further notice. They recommend an alternative donor as back-up in situations where there is an increased risk that a donor would become unavailable at the time of planned transplantation due to community-acquired COVID-19, travel restrictions or logistical difficulties at a transplant centre/collection center. The transplant centers will cryopreserve the products upon receipt and will start the conditioning regimen only after safe arrival of the product. RNDVCSH also surveys the national donors, during 14 days after the collections to determine if the donors are at risk of COVID-19 infection and will notify the transplant centre as needed.
 - **BONE MARROW COLLECTION:** In Romania, following the recent national measures for limitation of COVID-19 pandemic, restricted the access to the operating rooms and intensive care services. Till further notice, the bone marrow collection cannot be performed in Collection Centers.
 - **TRANSPORTATION:** Taking into account the national recommendations and the risk related to the transport limitation of HSC for lifesaving transplantation within the country and internationally, in all national transplant centers we face with postponement of unrelated allotransplants, only the urgent unrelated allotransplants are performed. During the state of emergency, all the flights to and from following countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Iran, Turkey and USA, are suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, for all airports in Romania, until May 15, 2020. For some of this destinations the road transport is possible, and RNDVCSH will issue the import/export authorisation, we will issue also a certificate/letter for facilitating cross-border shipments of HSC as essential goods and services within the EU countries, and will inform national authorities regarding each transport.
 - **Courier information:** please note that the state of emergency is prolonging till **15 of May**. All flights to and from all Romanian International Airports, are suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, for the following countries: **Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Iran, Turkey and USA.**
 - **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Aurora Dragomiristeanu aurora.dragomiristeanu@rndvcsch.ro; +40722.751.147We express our gratitude to transplantation community and worldwide bone marrow registries. With this challenge, we hope we could stay active to overcome this exceptional period. Keep safe and stay well.

Russia Karelian Registry of Hematopoietic Stem Cells (ION-8256)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/MRRcAQ>
- **Update April 27, 2020:** Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, Russia has stopped all travel abroad (since March 27th) and adopted some restrictions for travel of civil individuals (since March 30th). However under certain circumstances people may leave their homes, in particular, to visit a medical office. Since the risk of donor infection with COVID-19 is quite high, some operations of the Karelian Registry cannot be performed in full scale. However, this greatly varies from one particular case to another, and we hope the restrictions will not hold for too long.
 - **Search:** There are no restrictions, conducted as usual.
 - **Additional HLA typing:** Additional HLA-typing is possible once the donor gives explicit consent and does not experience travel restrictions on the way to the medical office in charge for taking blood samples. In response to a particular request we will at once inform the requesting center about the possibility of typing.
 - **Confirmatory typing:** It is possible if the following standard conditions are met. To export blood samples an agreement must be made with the requesting center. In addition we need to obtain permission from the Russian Ministry of Health. There are currently no delays with the execution of such agreements from our part. Obtaining permission to export blood samples usually takes 10-12 days. Obstacles for sending blood samples abroad may rise due to restrictions set on international flights. Once we are unable to send blood samples for CT, we will promptly notify the requesting center. With the consent of the transplant center we can have high resolution HLA-typing A-B-C-DRB1-DQB1 and IDM tests performed by an independent laboratory. During an epidemic a donor may experience travel restrictions on the way to the medical office in charge for taking blood samples. However we are ready to check the donor's health ourselves and report the results to the requesting center. If the transplant center approves a donor without a CT additional blood samples may be sent with PBSC or BM once the transplant center requests them (volume, type, and number of samples should be specified). At the CT stage we also check the donor for the presence of COVID-19 and for contacts with infected persons. In case of positive detection the donor will be delayed for 3 months after recovery; the donor, who was in contact with a COVID-19 positive person will be delayed for 28 days.

- **Workup:** Work-up is possible once the donor gives consent and does not experience travel restrictions. At the WU stage we also check the donor for the presence of COVID-19 and for contacts with infected persons. In case of positive detection, the donor will be delayed for 3 months after recovery; the donor, who was in contact with a COVID-19 positive person, will be delayed for 28 days.
- **Collection:** Collection is possible if the donor is not limited to travel to the collection center. BM collection is possible if an operating room is available. PBSC collection is possible. However much will depend on the particular case.
- **Important!** Each donor will be tested for COVID-19 during the final cleanup phase. However there will be substantial risk of donor infection during the period of G-CSF mobilization or immediately before donation of PBSC or bone marrow. Therefore we recommend that transplant centers do not start conditioning until the collection center harvests a donor product. Once we are not sure that the donor product will be delivered to the transplant center within 72 hours, a preliminary discussion with the transplant center and the collection center on freezing the donor product immediately after collection will be necessary.
- **Transport of BM/PBSC:** Possible for national patients. **For international patients – a preliminary discussion is necessary in each case.** The time:matters company will transport the product.
- All requesting centers may continue to contact Karelian BMD Registry as usual via e-mail and/or fax: karelianbmd.donation@yahoo.com or karelian.bmd@onego.ru
fax: +7 8142 76 58 97
tel.: +7 8142 67 01 80

Singapore Bone Marrow Donor Programme (ION-3785)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/TxRcAQ>
- **April 27:** Singapore Government has extended additional measures till 1st Jun. Hence, BMDP will continue implementing the measures indicated on 7 Apr updates.
 - **Transport:** Our government authority has approved the handover of fresh product within our airport transit area without overseas courier entering Singapore. For both import and export of products, couriers can deliver/pick up products at the transit area. If the next flight for the overseas courier is more than 3 hours, courier can stay overnight at the airport transit hotel.
- **Update April 7:** To curb spike in coronavirus cases, Singapore Government has introduced additional measures effective 7th Apr to 4th May (subject to further extension). In line with these measures, BMDP will implement the following for the same time period.
 - **VT requests:** VTs can be requested as normal but we will only carry out donor interest and availability check. No blood samples for IDMs and HLA typing will be taken until further notice. No ETs request will be accepted.
 - **Workup requests:** WU can be requested as normal. All donors are asked about travel history, close contacts with anyone with or suspected to have COVID-19 and if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

South Africa South African Bone Marrow Registry (ION-8118)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/bRRcAQ>
- **Update May 11:** The SABMR notes the updated COVID-19 restrictions announced by the South African Government as of 04 May 2020 which currently places us in level 4. With the continued restriction on international passenger flights and only scheduled cargo flights allowed, the SABMR will continue operating under the same guidelines as previously communicated for the lockdown.
 - **Extended Typing (ET) and Verification Typing / Confirmatory Typing (VT / CT) requests:** The SABMR will continue to accept all ET and VT/CT requests. Upon receipt, a health history screening (including questions on COVID-19 exposure) and an availability check will be performed on the selected donor and their willingness to proceed with a sample collection. The SABMR remains committed to the safety of our donors and will adhere to the [WMDA's Donor Medical Suitability recommendations](#).
 - **Medical Examination and Stem Cell Collection of donors:** Such request will be dealt with on a case by case basis and will be dependent on the following:
 - Donor's health, availability and willingness to proceed under the current circumstances
 - The Collection Centres' or foreign Registry's capacity to fulfil the request.
 - **International donors currently in work-up:** This will be dealt with on a case by case basis in collaboration with both the foreign Registry and local Transplant Centre. Due to the ongoing travel restrictions and in line with our previous communication it is still recommended to arrange for cryopreservation of the product at the collection centre and the SABMR will then arrange for the product to be shipped as cargo to the transplant centre. We feel it is important to share with you an alert received from the WMDA S(P)EAR committee of several cryopreservation-related reports. Adverse events included unintended (due to miscommunication) cryopreservation at the collection site, a cryopreserved product that was misplaced and hence partly thawed during transport, and PBSC or BM products with (anticipated) low cell count after thawing, where the product could not be used, or the same donor was requested for an urgent second donation.

To improve the process and avoid the risk of similar events, the SABMR will be following the WMDA recommendations as below:

- Agree and make clear written specifications about where the cryopreservation will take place. Transplant centres and sending registries should feel free to ask for accreditation certificates from processing facilities that are responsible for cryopreserving the hematopoietic stem cells.
- Assess the feasibility of the request of the transplant centre before collecting the product. Attempts should be made to determine whether it will be possible to obtain the required cell counts taking into account the potential losses during cryopreservation.
- Consult with the Transplant Centre on whether collection with cryopreservation remains an acceptable option for the patient.
- Ensure the transport is performed by a courier company specialised in transport of cryopreserved stem cells in dry shippers, according to accepted standards.
- Make sure that the site performing the transplant has implemented validated assays and test procedures for the evaluation of thawed cellular therapy products.
- If the post-thaw viable cell count tested on a representative sample is too low for successful engraftment, consider the option to check if it is feasible that the donor donates for a second time and combine the two products in one transfusion, rather than discarding the first product.
- Communicate the test results and if the cellular therapy product is used (including infusion date) back to the sending registry for evaluation of the process. If the cellular therapy product is not used, the registry must be informed.
- WMDA strongly recommends that conditioning not be commenced until the viability of the cellular therapy product is established using an attached segment or vial.

While many SABMR staff continue to work remotely and in the office, diligent efforts continue to provide transplant centres with safe and reliable stem cell products for their patients within the required timeframe. Please don't hesitate to contact the SABMR should you require more information.

- Read more here: [document a](#) and [document b](#)
 - SABMR Landline: +27 21 447 8638 (During office hours)
 - CEO & Medical Director: +27 82 822 8644. Dr Charlotte Ingram charlotte.ingram@sabmr.co.za
 - Patient Services: + 27 81 042 1734 Alicia Venter alicia.venter@sabmr.co.za
 - Donor Services: +27 84 209 2321 Jane Ward jane.ward@sabmr.co.za

Spain Registro de Donantes de Médula Ósea (REDMO) (ION-7813)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/FRRcAQ>
- Update March 31: [find link to PDF](#)
- **Update March 31:** Considering always donors and patients' safety in first place, REDMO is constantly renewing its strategies to overcome all the obstacles we are facing during this crisis. This is the reason why we would like to make an update on our current operational state:
 - **Extended typing and confirmatory (CT) requests:** We are still taking requests for extended typing in all those cases where the laboratory still has samples. If this is not the case, we won't call in the donor and we will cancel the request. Regarding CT requests and as an alternative to their usual processing our registry is conducting a willingness and health assessment of the donors. We perform a thorough health interrogation including Covid-19 risks and ask about the availability and willingness to donate for the next 6 months. The results of this interview are being communicated via EMDIS or email depending on the registry. The donor stays reserved for your patient for 2 months. If you would like to continue with our donor, when you request a Work-up you can also request CT samples. We would appreciate it if you only start this process when our donor is your primary donor.
 - **Donors' availability:** At workup stage REDMO is making certain that donors are willing to donate. For those cases missing the CT samples, you will be able to request them in addition to the pre-collection samples. Donors are being interrogated about any signs or risks for Covid-19. Those donors presenting any kind of symptoms or relevant risks before initiation of mobilization are being deferred for one month. If a donor presents symptoms during mobilization, the test (oropharyngeal swab) is performed as soon as they inform the CC, and donation is being cancelled in case of positive results. All other effective donors are being tested on the collection day. In every case we are informing the TC about the test results. We are still taking some Bone Marrow and unstimulated lymphoapheresis requests depending on the CC's capacity, but we strongly encourage you to only request PBSC for the time being. Regarding the possible cellular loss through cryopreservation, our CCs are advised to consider donors' safety first, before exceeding the standards of cellular collection even if the TCs ask for a higher than usual cellular dose. In all cases we strongly recommend NOT to start the conditioning regimen before arrival of the product and to cryopreserve it. If it were deemed necessary, some of our CCs could cryopreserve the product at origin.
 - **Transport:** With the help of our National Health Authorities we have been able to establish a safe hand-over of the product at every major Spanish airport, so that the international couriers do not need to enter the Spanish territory. For both incoming and outgoing products couriers are asked to go straight to the custom area of the airport where they are being met by our National Civil Guard and trained staff from the patients TC or from their respective processing laboratory so that they can deliver the product, or by staff from the collection center, so that they can pick up the product. This process has been successful in every case and we will keep it for as long as it is necessary.
 - **Cord Blood Units:** There has been no variation to our operational processes regarding CBU's.
- Kindest of regards and wishing you all health and strength, **Dr. Enric Carreras and Dr. Juliana Villa**

Sweden Tobias Registry Sweden Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ION-5285)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/display/WMDAREG/Operational+Information+ION-5285#/>
- **Update March 27:** The registry stays operational for all activities. Staff can work from home or will be at the office. You will always be able to reach us by e-mail using: info@tobiasregistret.se
 - Donors is routinely asked if they have any flu-like symptoms.
 - Donors are advised to follow the safety measures from the Swedish Government and health care authority. There are no travel restrictions within Sweden.
 - We accept that products are cryopreserved.
 - In response to the European Council's and the European Commission's call for travel restrictions, the Government decided on 17 March to temporarily stop non-essential travel to Sweden so as to mitigate the effects of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and reduce the spread of the disease but persons with a creditable purpose are allowed to enter. Medicine is considered a creditable purpose. The registry will provide documentation for the courier to show at the border that will allow them to travel to the Transplant Center or Collection Center. The documentation will be handed to the TC and the courier and it include a 24/7 phone number for the border police to confirm the purpose of the courier, if needed.

Switzerland Blutspende SRK Schweiz (Swiss Blood Stem Cells) (ION-9341)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/mxRcAQ>
- **Update May 29:**
 - The Swiss blood stem cell transplant activity is going on, on the patient side as well as on the donor side. However, we are also impacted by the restrictive measures that affect both courier travels and donor selection policies. We are now also working nearly complete remote, so please contact us primarily by e-mail.
 - In order to prevent any risk of harm to the recipients, our medical committee strongly recommends accepting all requests by transplant centers – national and international -for cryopreservation. This will allow the transplant centers to cryopreserve the products upon receipt and to start the conditioning regimen only after safe arrival of the product. From 16.03.2020 onwards, most Swiss transplant centers will request cryopreservation of the products. We will inform you on a case-by-case basis and in due time.
 - Concerning Swiss donors, we have defined specific donor selection policies, including testing, in order to minimise the risks for the donors themselves and for the recipients as far as possible. We will perform a Health & Availability Check (HAV) in the cases, where we are not able to perform a blood drawn, however our priority process still remains to perform a regular CT/VT including the collection of blood samples.
 - **Border control:** Switzerland will open the borders to Germany, Austria and France on June 15th. It is planned to re-open the Schengen-border controls by mid-July with all EU countries. The Swiss Registry is holding an additional authorization for the import and export of blood stem cells ([File 24.03.2020 SBSC authorization Corona BAG](#)) especially for the COVID-19 situation ([including DLI \(File: Antwort\) a](#)

and we will hand over this authorization for the cases where the Swiss registry is involved (national patients/donors and international donors /patients).

- We are grateful for your collaboration in helping us to maintain our blood stem cell transplant activity. We remain at your disposal for any kind of inquiries concerning this topic (tx-coordination@blutspende.ch / emergency calls: +41 31 380 81 01

Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Stem Cells Center - BTCSCC (ION-3458)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/qxRcAQ>
- [Information in Chinese](#) (find below the English Translation)
- **Update April 9:**
 - During the period of the serious COVID-19 outbreak, BTCSCC maintains its stem cell donations as the usual process but follows the policies declared by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan.
 - To prevent the risk of non-related donors and recipients from getting an infection by COVID-19 while the Central Epidemic Command Center is still serving (before the risk of the infection is dismissed), the measures taken by BTCSCC are as follows:
 - To clarify the risk of infection on donors, BTCSCC will survey the donors at CT and Work Up stages. If the donors have related symptoms, history of contact with COVID-19 cases or have been exposed to the risk area, the donation process on the donors will be deferred for 2 to 3 weeks. The TC will be notified once an ineligibility or deferral is determined.
 - At the donors' work up stage, travel history of the donors will be revealed by the national health insurance system. The work up will be postponed once a related medical history, symptoms or any adverse sign on the donors' chest imaging are observed. And the TC will be notified as soon as possible.
 - BTCSCC will survey the donors 14 days before the collections to determine if they are at the risk of a COVID-19 infection.
 - BTCSCC staff will call and perform a health survey on the donation candidate every two weeks to see if there is any abnormal symptom.
 - BTCSCC will also survey the donors 14 days after the collections to determine if the donors are at the risk of COVID-19 infection and notify the TC as the supportive information for clinical purposes.
 - The TC should arrange a pick up date based on Dh (Day harvest) instead of Day0 with BTCSCC in the future. Dh may change and the product may not be able to arrive at the TC on the scheduled date due to flight changes or border closures. Please start the conditioning therapy or myeloablative conditioning therapy of the recipient after the arrivals of the products. And the product should be cryopreserved prior to the completion of the therapy. This strategy is to ensure the safety of the recipients in this rapidly changing epidemic situation.
 - All the registries or the TCs should confirm the flight schedules and the regulations for epidemic prevention of both import and export countries before arranging the pick-up date of the products to ensure the process of the donation is smooth and timely.
 - TC must report the product receipt form to BTCSCC in order to understand the status of the product and its recipient.

Thailand Thai National Stem Cell Donor Registry - TSCDR (ION-8362)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/wxRcAQ>
- **Update March 23:** TSCDR operation during COVID-19
 - **Search:** TSCDR accept search request from transplant centres and registries as usual without restriction.
 - **CT and WU requests:** TSCDR has implemented COVID-19 donor eligibility criteria according to WMDA recommendation. Additional COVID-19 infection risk information have been required from donor as following, 1) risk of infection from working area such as airport staff, tour guide, airport staff, tour guide, medical staff etc. 2) risk of infection from close contact to infected person or person who come back from high risk countries 3) participate in activities with a lot of people or big communities. Donor who have above risk will be requested for temporary deferral for at least 14 days. Donor who pass medical assessment must be educated to quarantine themselves for protective COVID-19 infection before collection and must notify TSCDR if they found any symptoms related to COVID-19 infection during 14 days after collection. Some of collection centers are COVID-19 treatment centers affect decreasing collection facilities then the collection schedules may be delay.
 - **Transportation of blood samples:** TSCDR do not find the delay of blood samples transportation with FedEx. Some donors may be requested to quarantine for 14 days that affect delay sample shipment schedule.
 - **Travel restrictions:** TSCDR do not allow couriers from high risk or epidemic countries go to TSCDR building then couriers will be requested to pick up stem cell at other place outside Thai Red Cross Society's area. Thai Red Cross Society do not allow TSCDR staff travel to high risk countries for pickup stem cell then Courier Services Companies will be used. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand have announced on Practical Guideline for Air Operators Performing Flights into the Kingdom of Thailand on website <https://www.caat.or.th/en/>

Turkey - TRAN and TRIS (ION-5509 and ION-3893)

- **Update March 20: INFORMATION** TRAN and TRIS would like to inform that as of today 14/03/2020, the Turkish Ministry of Health has decided to require all returning passengers (citizens and non-citizens) from all to adhere to a 14-day quarantine from their entry into Turkey. These provisions mean that foreign couriers will not be able to enter the country. It is also very likely that the frequency of flights to and from Turkey will decrease significantly in the coming days. TRIS and TRAN working very hard with competent authorities to find suitable solutions for each transport during next week, and we are in close contact with the relevant registries. However, due to this difficult situation, we can no longer guarantee a safe arrival of the product in the coming weeks.
 - **Search:** TRIS and TRAN accepts search request from transplant centres and registries as usual, without any restrictions.
 - **Confirmatory Typing:** Requests will be accepted as usual, but collection of a new blood sample for confirmatory typing has become more difficult day by day. Testing of provided samples are still in progress. For foreign registries, we suggest to request for on-site CT instead of requesting for a blood sample.
 - **Workup Requests:** We will not be able to collect any cell product during this period. We are trying to complete the scheduled ones but we will not accept any WU request in this period.
 - **Transport of HPC collected on international donors:** Most flights have been cancelled, so it is even more difficult to organize the transports of HPCs. We would suggest to arrive in Istanbul airport and we may assist with our courier in order to have the handover of the product directly at the airport.
 - As March 19 The government close the air connection with 22 countries and close 3 borders. This countries are: China, Iran, Italy, Iraq, South Korea, Germany, France, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Netherlands, Austria, Egypt, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Bulgaria. The closed borders are with Iraq, Iran and Georgia. In this condition we can no longer guarantee a safe arrival of any blood sample in the coming weeks.

- **Postpone donation:** According to the novel coronavirus – guidance of WMDA, it is recommended to postpone donation in case of donors coming from risk area, or contacting with confirmed case, or with history of COVID-19 infection.
- **Please contact in case of an emergency situation:**
 - TRAN: tran@ankara.edu.tr, Gamze Ceylan : tran.gc@ankara.edu.tr Tel: +90 03125082374, mobile :+90 0505 966 6813, Ayfer Tarla Burucu: aburucu@ankara.edu.tr Tel: +90 0312 508 2444 Mobile. +90 0533 623 73 69
 - TRIS: Kibankinfo@istanbul.edu.tr Fatma Oguz MD PhD Tel: +90 212 414 20 00/ 32461 Mobile:0090 532 3737035

United Kingdom, Anthony Nolan (ION-6354)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/7RRcAQ>
- **Update May 22:** On Friday 22nd May the UK government announced new measures at the UK borders to guard against a second wave of coronavirus infections, effective from 8th June. They include 14 days' self-isolation for anyone entering the UK, bar a short list of exemptions. The exemptions include certain medical staff and we expect that this will include medical couriers. We have been in regular contact with the UK Department of Health and Social Care and are awaiting confirmation of what, if any, additional paperwork will be required for couriers entering the UK from 8th June onwards.
- **Update March 18:**
 - **Search:** Anthony Nolan is accepting search requests from transplant centres and registries as usual
 - **VT requests:** Requests will be accepted as usual, though we are facing some challenges with getting blood samples and shipment to certain countries. All donors are asked about travel history, upcoming travel and exposure to COVID-19. Donors will be deferred as per guidelines.
 - **Workup requests:** All donors are asked about travel history, upcoming travel and exposure to COVID-19. Donors will be deferred as per guidelines, but donation can be considered if the transplant is urgent, there is no other donor available and the donor is well, with no symptoms. We are in the process of securing access to COVID-19 testing for at-risk donors in the UK. UK guidance to transplant centres now recommends considering cryopreservation for all collections.
 - **Transport:** All products arriving into or leaving the UK will be routed via a handover hub at Heathrow Airport. This room allows a safe place where cells can be transferred from a UK ground courier to an international courier and vice versa. If it's helpful for international registry partners to use this hub for handover of cells from one courier to another, please just email handoverhub@anthonymolan.org and we're happy to support.

Anthony Nolan staff are now predominantly working from home, but there is no change to our contact information or service to international registries.

United Kingdom British Bone Marrow Registry (ION-2731)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/display/WMDAREG/ION-2731#/>
- **Update April 17:**
 - **Search:** We are continuing to accept search requests from transplant centres and registries as usual.
 - **VT requests:** For all new requests after the 13th April, we will only draw blood samples under a limited set of circumstances. We will contact the donor to assess their health status, availability and willingness to donate. If the donor is available, we will ask if you would like us to carry out any additional HLA from stored DNA. If DNA is unavailable, we will only bleed the donor (to provide you with a VT sample and for IDM testing) if the donor's HLA is of a poor quality (which we define as a less than second field resolution at HLA-A, -B, -C, -DRB1 and -DQB1). Where we are unable to provide samples, you will be able to request this at work-up.
 - **ET requests:** For all new requests after the 13th April, we will only carry out extended typing from stored DNA. If this is not available, we will not draw a sample from the donor.
 - **Workup requests:** We accept such requests as normal. If a donor has had a suspected COVID-19 infection, the current UK guidelines recommend waiting for three months after symptoms abate before commencing with G-CSF injections – this period can possibly be reduced in urgent cases. Please request PBSC donations rather than BMH where possible. We continue to accept lymphocyte requests, but we will prioritise access to apheresis slots for PBSC donations. As at the 13th April, we have COVID-19 testing available at one of our Collection Centres and expect to have this for all of them by the end of April – please ask for the current status. All exported products will be transferred to the Handover Hub (run by our esteemed colleagues at Anthony Nolan) for handover to your courier at London Heathrow airport. UK guidance to transplant centres now recommends considering cryopreservation for all collections; if necessary, we can arrange to cryopreserve at our Collection Centre then ship.

United States Be The Match-NMDP Registry (ION-3553)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/QxVcAQ>
- **Update May 27:**
 - When you request a CT, your Case Manager will email you the results of the donor availability check and HHSQ. During the health check, the donor center will also be arranging collection and shipping of fresh buccal swab samples, with an appointment date provided for a completed collection. The buccal swabs being collected will be split up by the NMDP/Be The Match Biorepository—with two being sent to the transplant center for the purpose of confirmatory typing in your own labs and two being sent to a contracted lab for presumptive ABO/Rh and CMV testing.
 - **Donor Screening for COVID-19: Make Donors Who Test Positive for COVID-19 Temporarily Unavailable** If a donor tests positive for COVID-19 during any phase of the donation process, donor centers should place the donor in a temporarily unavailable (TU) status for at least 30 days. After 30 days, please contact the donor for re-evaluation and a medical status update. While we do not currently recommend widespread COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic donors, there are situations when testing may be necessary. For example, testing may be required per an apheresis or collection center's institutional policy. We have added additional information to the website on these exceptions and what to do if a donor tests positive for COVID-19 after being cleared to donate. [Access information](#). In addition, we have added more Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 testing information. [Access FAQs](#).
 - **FAQ:** We are continually updating our Frequently Asked Questions. Access the FAQs for your center type.
 - [Frequently Asked Questions for Transplant Centers](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions for Donor Centers and Your Donors](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions for Apheresis and Collection Centers](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions for Patients and Their Families](#)

United States Gift of Life Registry (ION-1033)

- Registry operational information available on: <https://share.wmda.info/x/IRVcAQ>
- **Update 27 March:** Gift of Life has made the following procedural changes and enhancements in light of COVID-19:
 - All Confirmatory Typing requests will not have a blood sample drawn for CT and IDM testing as routinely performed. Cooperative Registries will be notified of the donor availability and health history screening outcomes. In the event a transplant center wants a CT performed, we are happy to oblige by sending the donor a buccal swab kit and having it typed at a laboratory different than the original typing laboratory. The sample can be run STAT. Please notify donors@giftoflife.org if you have a special request.
 - Gift of Life is asking all transplant centers not to condition patients until after the product is received. This will require transplant centers to cryopreserve the product on receipt. In the event a transplant center is unable to cryopreserve, Gift of Life can arrange for this to be done for donors collected at the Gift of Life – Be The Match Collection Center (please check with your Gift of Life coordinator upon submission of the workup request, and we will do our best to have the donor collected at our facility). Gift of Life will then arrange for the product to be shipped in a dry shipper to the destination transplant center.
 - We are especially grateful to our colleagues at Ontime Onboard Courier GmbH - especially Thilo Buerklin - for making courier transport miracles happen! Thank you to the entire registry and transplant community – and to the WMDA office – our global community is coming together to beat this crisis and help the patients who count on us all.