

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (98) 10

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON THE USE OF HUMAN RED BLOOD CELLS FOR THE PREPARATION OF OXYGEN-CARRYING SUBSTANCES

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 September 1998
at the 641st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued, *inter alia*, by the adoption of common action in the health field;

Taking into account the ethical principles concerning voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation set out in Recommendations No. R (88) 4 on responsibilities of health authorities in the field of blood transfusion, No. R (90) 9 on plasma products and European self-sufficiency and No. R (95) 14 on the protection of the health of donors and recipients in the area of blood transfusion;

Recalling its Recommendations No. R (93) 4 on clinical trials involving the use of components and fractionated products derived from human blood or plasma and No. R (95) 15 on the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components;

Bearing in mind the stipulations of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine,

Recommends that governments of member states see to it that:

1. the procurement of raw material for the preparation of oxygen-carrying substances or other medicinal substances based on human blood is organised in a way that does not hamper a steady and sufficient blood supply for transfusion purposes;
2. the procurement of such raw material should be transparent and give the donors sufficient information on the potential use of the blood collected;
3. the principle of voluntary, non-remunerated donation is respected and followed in all donations of blood, independent of the ultimate therapeutic use of the products.