

Medical-Ethical Guideline for the Use of Human Biological Material

1 Scope of this guideline

OTCF endeavors to ensure the compliance with ethical standards and applicable laws in relation with the donation of human biological material. OTCF encourages ethical business practices and is socially responsible.

This guideline is based on the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine¹, the Ethical Guideline of the Medical Research Committee (UK)² and the Ethical Guideline from the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences³.

The Convention states the principle according to which a person has to give the necessary consent for treatment expressly, in advance, except in emergencies, and that such consent may be freely withdrawn at any time.

2 Principles

2.1 The human body and its parts should be treated with respect

OTCF is aware of cultural or religious differences in the meaning and significance attached to the body or specific parts of it and assures that the will of the donor is respected.

2.2 Informed consent and authorization

Donors should understand what the sample is to be used for and how the results of the research might impact on their interests. The written authorization is required from the donor (or the next of kin, if the donor has died).

2.3 The human body and its parts shall not, as such, give rise to financial gain

OTCF agrees to reimburse the reasonable expenses or costs for obtaining human biological material for educational or research purposes. The donors should be informed if their samples might be used in commercial research.

2.4 Request for information

Every supplier of human biological material shall be able to hand out to OTCF a complete documentation on the origin of the human biological material on first request.

3 Violations against this Ethical Guideline

Should violations against this Guideline occur, OTCF may have the right to immediately terminate the agreement with the violator without notice according to the article 3.2 of the OTCF Code of Conduct.

March 16th 2011

Emanuel Zloczower
Chairman of Board of Trustees

Mel Rosenwasser
Chairman Executive Committee

¹ Convention for the protection of Human Rights and dignity of the human being with regard to the application of biology and medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No.: 164) and Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin (ETS No.: 186)

² <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Utilities/Documentrecord/index.htm?d=MRC002420>

³ <http://samw.ch>