

SOHO V&S Project – Project Notify

The IMB has been involved in the SOHO V&S Project (Vigilance and Surveillance of Substances of Human Origin) funded by the European Commission as an associated partner for the last three years. The main aim of this project was to support EU Member States in the establishment of effective vigilance and surveillance systems for tissues and cells used in transplantation and assisted reproduction. More details on the project can be found at www.sohovs.org. The project is about to come to an end and over the next few months we will be providing you with details of the project outputs as they are finalised and we will discuss with you how we hope to implement a number of these outputs in Ireland.

The SOHO V&S Project joined forces with the World Health Organisation in 2011 to host an International Workshop to gather didactic information on documented types of adverse outcomes in transplantation and assisted reproduction and to review existing cases to identify general principles supporting detection and investigation. This international workshop became known as the Bologna Notify Meeting which was held in February 2011 and was attended by 116 invitees from regulators, government agencies, professional societies, international organisations, scientific and clinical experts in organ, tissue and cell transplantation and in assisted reproduction. The main output from this meeting was the Bologna Notify Project Meeting Report.

Following on from the success of this meeting, it was agreed that a website would be established to host the database of vigilance information collected by the Notify Project. The Notify Library (www.notifylibrary.org) fulfils this purpose and is hosted by the Italian National Transplant Centre (CNT). The database content is still under development and approximately 50% of the cases collected have been reviewed by independent expert groups and uploaded. This percentage will increase as further reviews are completed and new cases uploaded.

By clicking on the **Enter the Notify Library** tab, the database can be accessed without username and password. The database allows a user to search over 1800 references describing adverse outcomes in transplantation (organs and tissues and cells) and in assisted reproduction. The user can search by substance type (all organs, one specific organ, all tissues and cells, one specific tissue etc.), incident type (infection, malignancy, etc.) or by using key words or phrases. Search results can then be selected and printed or saved in pdf. format with one record per page.

The web page also contains a link to the Bologna Notify Project Meeting Report which contains very useful information and discussion on key topics in vigilance and surveillance.

This website is an important tool to raise the awareness of adverse outcomes associated with transplantation of organs, tissues and cells and in assisted reproduction.

The aim of this update is to ensure that all Tissue Establishment personnel and clinical users of Tissues and Cells are made aware of its availability.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Blood, Tissues and Organs Section.