



SENT BY EMAIL

Québec City, November 10, 2023

TO PRESIDENTS AND CEOS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

TO DIRECTORS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

Subject: Human tissue supply – Héma-Québec’s transition to a sole distributor role

To whom it may concern:

As you know, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux has granted Héma-Québec exclusive rights to process and distribute human tissue to Québec public health and social services institutions. Héma-Québec is continuing its preparations to ensure a smooth transition when this mandate enters into force in fall 2024, a little less than a year away. At that time, Héma-Québec will be solely responsible for supplying and distributing human tissue to the entire Québec health care network. These new responsibilities are in line with Héma-Québec’s mission to efficiently meet the needs of the Québec population for quality blood and other biological products of human origin.

Changes that may impact operations

Currently, Héma-Québec supplies around 60% of human tissue in Québec through the Human Tissue Bank, which manages the collection, processing, screening and distribution of human tissue. The other 40% comes from external suppliers, from which hospitals can currently order directly. Starting next fall, Héma-Québec will roll out a procurement strategy to maintain a more diverse product offering that meets surgeons’ needs while complying with Héma-Québec’s quality standards. Therefore, current contracts with external suppliers will be honoured until they expire, and those ending before September 30, 2024, will be extended until December 31, 2024.

Once this strategy is rolled out, suppliers, brand names and selected products may differ from the ones that are currently used. This change may affect medical teams’ usual operations, especially with regard to the relationships they have developed with suppliers.

We are aware that the announced changes may be a source of concern. This is why we are doing everything necessary to ensure a smooth transition, with the ultimate goal of guaranteeing a safe and adequate supply for all Quebecers.

Optimizing practices through a committee of experts

Héma-Québec was granted the sole supplier mandate as a result of a recommendation made by Québec’s biovigilance committee, whose main goals were to improve product traceability using a centralized register and monitor adverse reactions that may occur as a result of transplants. The committee also wants to see improved forecasting of demand for human tissue in the health care system in order to optimize procurement and distribution. To ensure the success of this initiative and ensure this demand is

fully accounted for, a committee of consultants comprised of different types of transplant specialists was established in partnership with the Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec (FMSQ). Their recommendations will inform the ongoing process.

Expertise you can trust

Héma-Québec is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and boasts a wealth of experience in human tissue management that it has gained over that time. With the current strategy, you can rest assured that Héma-Québec is committed to making every effort to ensure that your medical teams have all the human tissue products they need to provide quality care at all times. From now until our sole distributor mandate enters into force, we will continue to keep you informed of the project's progress so you can prepare for the upcoming changes and so your medical teams can continue working in the best possible conditions.

Kindly pass along this information to the medical staff at your institution, whether or not they deal with suppliers of human tissue products.

If you would like to receive more information or share your comments or concerns, feel free to contact us at our centralized email address, tissushumains@hema-quebec.qc.ca, which will put you in direct contact with the managers of our human tissue team.

Sincerely,



Etienne Fissette
Director of Human Tissue Operations
Héma-Québec



Amaury Doger de Speville
Director of Acquisition Strategy, Human Tissue
Héma-Québec

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