



# **Greek experience with the EDQM B-QM Programmes**

Keeping up with Reality and Quality: A challenge for European Blood Establishments

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## **Background Information for Greece Blood sector**

- EKEA (HNBTC) is the CA on blood and blood products under the supervision of MoH. It is responsible for coordination as well as scientific and technical control of the National Blood System.
- At the end of 2008, the implementation of the structural and organizational requirements foreseen within the Qualification Process of the Hellenic Blood System begun in compliance with both the National and European legislation related to blood and blood components (2002/98/EC, 2005/62/EC, 2005/61/EC, 2004/33/EC) and today the screening for infectious markers is nationally performed in 2 Centers.

**ΕΚΕΑ** Εθνικό Κέντρο Αιμοδοσίας





## **Background Information for Greece Blood sector**

■The Blood Supply System still remains decentralized & basically hospital-based. Mostly all of he 97
Hospital Blood Banks perform recruitment of donors, blood collection, blood grouping, cross matching and transfusion (BEs).

•Nationally **510.111 units** were collected in 2019 and **120.000** of them are transfused to **thalassemia patients** (E.KE.A, Dr Stamoulis, personal communication).



www.ekea.gr

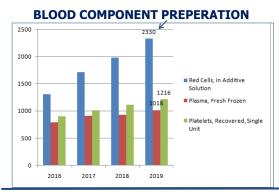
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## **Background-Who we are**

- "OI AGIOI ANARGYROI" Transfusion Service operates as a Hospital Blood Bank since 2010, in a partially teaching 300 bed hospital.
- Blood collection both in our premises and in mobile sites was started in 2015.
- Current work load:



BLOOD COMPONENT TRANSFUSION

2000

2000

2000

Red Cells, in Additive Solution

Plasma, Fresh Frozen

Platelets, Recovered, Single Unit



### **OUR LONG JOURNEY TOWARDS QUALITY & SAFETY**

- 2016 2 members of our department were qualified as ISO 9001 certification body assessor (ISO 9001 Auditor/Lead Auditor, 5-day CQI and IRCA certified course)
- Certification on ISO 9001-2015 (TUV HELLAS):
   Scope; Blood Transfusion Services (Collection, Processing, Test and Issue). Hospital based Transfusion
  - Activities and Patient Blood Management Practice to In-& Outpatients.

     Internal audits: at least once per year
  - External inspection –TUV :yearly (1 inspector, 8 working hours)
- 2018 EDQM B-MJV Audit 3 auditors, 2½ days
- **2019** Certification on ISO 15189 (Hellenic Accreditation System SA»-«ESYD»)
- CA E.KE.A External audit (3 inspectors: 1 external legally trained auditor, 2 E.KE.A personnel with relevant competence, 8 working hours), the report is still pending
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## **HOW WE HEARD ABOUT THE B-QM PROGRAMME**

- Training Course: European Conference on Sharing best practices: 17-19 October 2017, Strasbourg, France
- Alexandroupolis Blood Establishment previous experience (Dr Martinis, personal communication)
- BLOOD-QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (Observe the QMS under development and give on site training /recommendations/advice for improvement and/or implementation of the QMS):
  - does not supersede/replace inspections performed by authorities
  - open to all European blood establishments
  - free of charge
- Application was submitted for **B-MJV** in 2017: Check compliance with requirements, report & recommendations
- Aim: to help improving our newly established QMS
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#### THEY SAID YES

- The audit was scheduled in November 2018
- 3 auditors for 3 days !!!???
- ✓ We mobilized our courage and humour (with a minimum of seriousness)
- ✓ We decided to be:

open and honest,

not to hesitate asking questions,

and to enjoy the whole process



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#### **HOW WAS THE AUDIT EXPERIENCED BY THE PERSONNEL?**

- The personnel experienced the audit and supervision as follows:

  "Audits we had before were not as **demanding**, and did not force us to evaluate our day-to-day work in the same ways [...]"
- The personnel also endorsed the managerial-centered focus and the focus on potential system deviations at higher organizational levels







#### **CREATED AWARENESS**



The experts brought out difficulties in our **understanding** of the quality concepts in implementing requirements and developing an integrated QMS.

#### B-MJV020-Preliminary Report-Observations:

- •RM is not **embedded** in the Quality management System
- •Evidence of practical implementation of RM is missing.
- •RM is currently implemented solely in the context of CAPA.
- •Personnel do not have a full of Risk Management

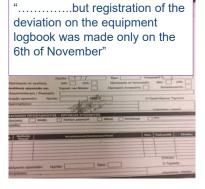
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#### WHAT DID THE PERSONNEL LEARN FROM THE REPORTED DEVIATIONS?

• The audit brought attention to our Quality System deficiencies and was perceived as a **catalyst** for further quality improvements.



#### B-MJV020-Preliminary Report-Observations:

"Several significant temperature deviations occurred during the month of August, September, October and November 2018......"

"Boxes used by mobile site to storage blood donations are not validated. Data logger are not calibrated qualified." Flat cooling devices are not qualified."





## **CREATED AWARENESS**

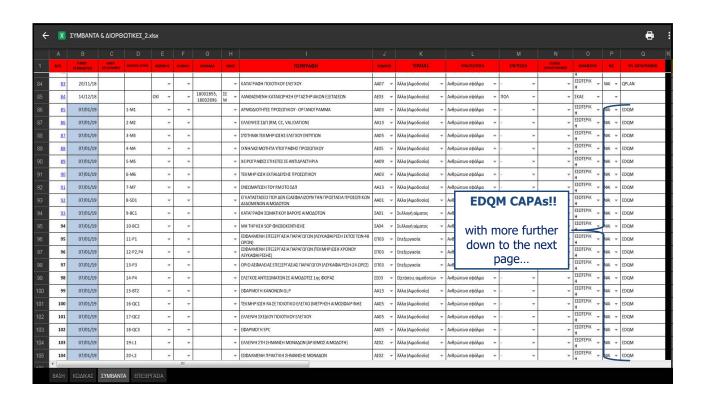
#### Number and scope of *B-MJV* report recommended changes:

- major 17
- minor 26

The audit generated the need to work **systematically** in implementing clinical and laboratory practice changes and to sustain these changes.







#### **BARRIERS TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES**



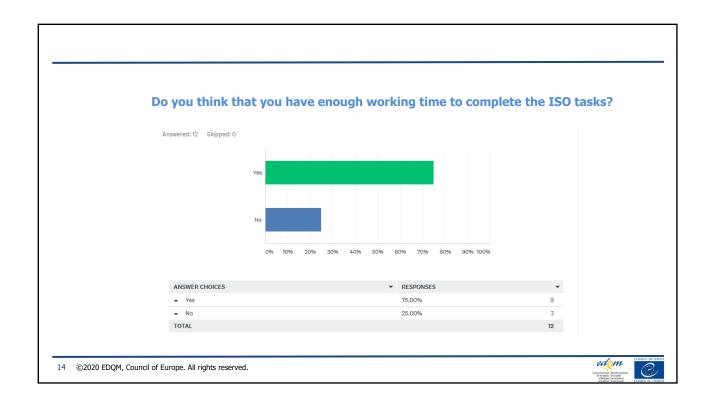
 Extra efforts were needed to change documents and correct subsequent deviations that were described in the MJV Report



 Time constraints present strong barriers against prioritizing working systematically in improving quality







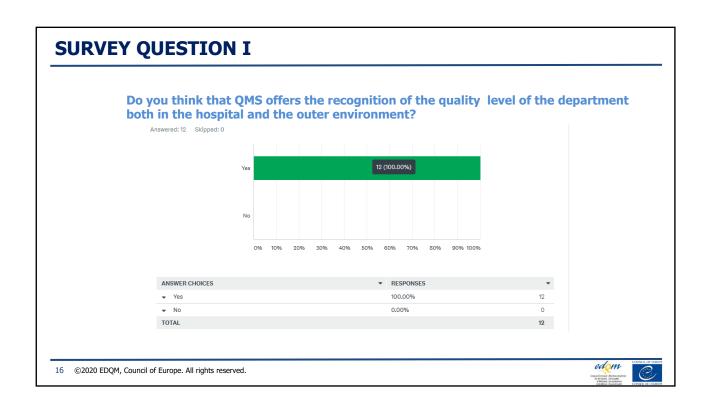
### **FACILITATORS OF CHANGE (I)**

- Involvement of all employees
- The positive feeling of professional pride is a strong facilitator of change toward improvement of quality:
  - We want to demonstrate that we are good in what we do. It is a relief to know that our work does not suffer from any critical deviations from high standards [...]
  - We felt professional pride; ... we do what we do quite well!"









#### CRITICAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

- The recommended changes and the **acquired knowledge** were substantial (in both number and scope).
- We have put a lot of effort to retain and share the created knowledge.
- Sharing is absolutely crucial as a way of maintaining these changes in the presence of personnel losses or modifications (for example, we faced mid-way in the process a change of personnel in a key member of our team, under the role of the Quality Manager).

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## **FACILITATORS TO CHANGE (II)**

- The presence of the Senior Manager of the hospital in the final meeting was crucial.
  - She became aware that our Department's work is committed to be in conformity with approved standards.
- As a consequence, after the EDQM B-MJV audit, we have had easier access to resources, at least for the financial sustainability of QMS (appraisal costs, etc.).

"It even led to some budget items being approved sooner than they might otherwise have."







#### **BENEFICIAL ASPECTS**

 The carry out of the audit resulted, as part of its consequences, in a spill over effect in the hospital

"they did not necessarily think in the way we do, and it was difficult for them to understand that established structures may need to change for the outcome of quality assurance [...]"

- We gained support and recognition for changes concerning Patient Safety issues from other interconnected departments of the organization
  - -the institution of a PBM office for scheduled surgeries

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#### **NET GAIN**

The audit was of highest caliber. We recognize:

- The profound changes that have already occurred or are in the process of still being implemented to our QMS.
- the need of consistent efforts to sustain and share the acquired knowledge among all the personnel.
- the awareness of the hospital's managerial system about the necessity to expand QMS in the interconnected departments of the organization





#### WHAT COMES NEXT

- We are still trying to gradually reform our QMS according to the audit recommendations and remarks of the final report
- ✓ drafting of an improved Quality Master File
- ✓ establish policies on Risk Management, Change Control, Quality Control/Statistical process Control and Validation



 We intend to proceed with the follow up Blood Mutual Joint Audit (B-MJA)



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#### **MANY THANKS**

The **personnel** of GONK-OI AGIOI ANARGYROI would like to thank the auditors' team for their interest in the **B-MJV**, and especially for their sincere and honest opinions and contributions, which reflect the importance they placed in their visit.

