



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR COLLABORATION ON TRANSPLANT ACTIVITIES**

THE MINISTRY FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE OF MALTA  
AND  
THE ITALIAN NATIONAL TRANSPLANT CENTRE- ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for Social Policy of Malta and the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic on cooperation in the field of Health and Medical Sciences, signed in Malta (Valletta) on 23 December, 2009;

following contacts between Maltese and Italian Health Ministries for implementing a collaboration protocol on transplant activities;

considering the activities of the European Transplant Network and the Mediterranean Transplant Network where Maltese representatives have taken part;

taking into account the cooperation relations dating back to 1986 between the St Luke's Hospital and the University of Rome "La Sapienza" that has led to the implementation of a kidney transplant program in Malta;

taking into account that since the late 1980s Malta through St Luke Hospital has been a member of the Inter-University Consortium for Organ Transplantation located in Rome;

considering that Policlinico Umberto I° has performed immunological tests for kidney transplants at St Luke Hospital since 1986;

considering that the Centre-South Transplant Organization (OCST) has supported with the consent of Maltese authorities the liver procurement in Valletta hosting surgical teams from Italy since 2000;

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HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING

1. Liver grafts utilising a 'payback' system will be sent to Italy and Maltese patients needing a liver transplantation may be transplanted at specialised liver transplant centres in Italy. For this purpose, Mater Dei Hospital may develop specific partnership agreements with specified transplant centres in order to share operational protocols to manage patients during the wait-listing period, transplant procedure and follow-up. In such protocols guidelines for wait-listing, contraindications, parameters for liver allocation will be specified. Maltese hepatopatic patients eligible for transplant will be transferred in Italy to the specified centre where transplantation will be performed. Furthermore, hepatopatic patients in urgency (Status 1 according to the Italian liver urgency protocol) will receive the first available liver over the Italian and Maltese territories
2. Mater Dei Hospital will explore the possibility of sending Maltese patients for other organ grafts such as lung transplants. The protocols and parameters as paragraph 1 above shall apply
3. The Maltese grafts that will be offered to Italy will be allocated prior to the regional centres belonging to centres from the Italian Central-Southern regions and then to other Italian Centres.
4. The number of transplants performed on Maltese patients will take into account the number of grafts retrieved in Malta
5. Policlinico Umberto 1° will continue to perform the immunological tests necessary for kidney transplantation in Malta.
6. The cost for transplantation of the Maltese patients performed in Italy will be covered by Maltese healthcare insurance/assistance system,
7. The cost of flight transport for patients from Malta to Italy will be governed by the rules that are in force in the Maltese healthcare insurance/assistance system at the time of the interventions.
8. Graft retrieval and transportation expenses for the surgical team will be covered by the receiving Transplant Centre, except when the liver is going to be transplanted in a Maltese patient. In this last case the costs will be covered by the Maltese healthcare insurance/assistance system.
9. Organ characteristics should match the international standards accepted for organ exchange between national and international organisations.
10. Organ exchange should be made in agreement with mutual laws and regulations for organ import and export under the control of national organizations
11. Coordination will be made by the Maltese and Italian National Coordinating centres.
12. Training initiatives will be organized, tailored on Maltese needs and upon request.

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## General Provisions

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is made to help in defining, implementing and improving the official cooperation between centres and national organisations in transplant organ program.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding is made in good will and in regards with positive practice in transplant organs but it has no any legal power and it keeps all the Parties indemnity harmless and non liable to any court or legislation.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding will produce its effects from the date of its signature by the Parties and it shall remain effective for indefinite period of time.
4. If the Parties are not satisfied with cooperation, either Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding at any moment by fulfilling previous obligations, if any, and furnishing the other Party with thirty days prior written notice.


SIGNED in Lome on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011, in two original copies, in the English and Italian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Health, the Elderly  
and Community Care of Malta

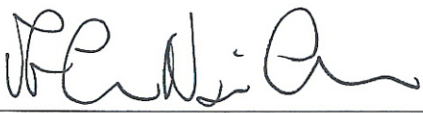
For the National Transplant Centre of the Italian  
Republic

Dr. Kenneth Grech  
Permanent Secretary

Dr. Alessandro Nanni Costa  
Director General



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