

PROHIBITION AGAINST COMMERCIAL TRADING OF HUMAN TISSUE UNDER HUMAN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ACT

The prohibition against commercial trading of human tissue under the Human Biomedical Research Act (HBRA) will come into effect from 1 January 2017.

HBRA and Prohibition Against Tissue Trading

2 Under the HBRA, commercial trading (i.e. buying and selling) of human tissue, as well as advertisements relating to such trading, is prohibited. This prohibition upholds the principle that human tissue should be obtained only through altruistic donations.

3 The relevant provisions¹ in the HBRA will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Prohibition Does Not Affect Certain Activities and Products

4 The prohibition will not restrict commercial trading of biological material such as tissue products and tissue derivatives (*please refer to definition of “human tissue” in section 2 and the First Schedule of the HBRA*). Examples of these include culture-expanded cell lines, and tissue material that have undergone substantial manipulation and processing.

5 The prohibition also will not prevent payment to reimburse reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the process of collecting and supplying human tissue – including the removal of tissue from the donor, and the subsequent transportation, preparation, preservation, quality control, and storage of the tissue. In this regard, obtaining tissues from sources that are part of a tissue sharing/exchange network or programme, whether local or international, and paying only reasonable costs and expenses in relation to such sourcing, would generally be permitted.

Enquiries and Clarifications Regarding Compliance

6 Those who have previously made arrangements to obtain and/or supply human tissue, whether for use in therapy or research, should ensure that their arrangements are not in contravention of the prohibitions in the HBRA.

7 Those who have questions or concerns about their compliance with the HBRA can write in to MOH at the following email address [\[hbr_enquiries@moh.gov.sg\]](mailto:hbr_enquiries@moh.gov.sg)

¹ HBRA section 32 – Commercial trading of human tissue prohibited

HBRA section 33 – Advertisements relating to commercial trading of human tissue prohibited