

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE

NATIONAL RETRIEVAL GROUP

INOAR REPORT

1. A RINTAG Sub-Group (Increasing the Number of Organs Available for Research – INOAR) was established to make recommendations on what more could be done to address the gap between the availability of and demand for organs for research purposes. The aim is two-fold:

1. To ensure that as many organs as possible are used for research.
2. To ensure that a donor's/ family's wish to donate for research purposes where transplantation is not an option is honoured wherever possible.

3. INOAR recommends an extension to the Liverpool Research HTA Licence (12068) to permit the removal of whole organs for research purposes. This is the licence currently used for QUOD and will mean that all 41 hospitals currently covered by QUOD will no longer need additional local licencing arrangements for the removal of whole organs for research purposes.

4. Activity will be limited under the new licence procedure to only remove organs/ tissue that NORS teams are trained and competent to remove. Any other tissues and organs would need to be considered on a case by case basis through RINTAG/ ODT Senior Management Team in line with existing processes and may still need to be removed under local licence arrangements.

Practical Implications:

1. This process will markedly simplify the consent process for research when organs cannot be used for transplant
2. The situation will be little different for abdominal organs when the decision not to transplant is made *after* removal and examination of the organ
3. But for organs where a decision is made beforehand, i.e. for most heart and lungs, and some abdominal organs such as the pancreas in a diabetic donor, the new arrangements will simplify the whole process of retrieval for research or tissue banking
4. Retrieval will only occur when there was already a NORS team attending, but from time to time additional time will be needed for the research retrieval.
5. Details of how, when and for how long a NORS team will wait will need to be clarified.

The next steps:

1. The proposal was supported at RINTAG
2. The proposal was fully supported at the Change Portfolio Board (CPB) in late October
3. The proposal will go to SMT (Senior Management Team) in November
4. Details of Governance and Traceability still need to be finalised