

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP

Pay back of liver offers when an organ is accepted out of sequence

Outline of Issue

In August ODT Hub Operations had a situation whereby a super urgent liver was offered to the patient highest on the list and was suitable however it was accepted and transplanted to another patient on the list at the same centre. This recipient who received the transplant was 4th on the super urgent list according to waiting times but this was a poly trauma case and the recipient was in greater need than the others on the super urgent list.

All correct procedures were followed with discussions held between all the surgeons involved and John Forsythe in his capacity as associate medical director at NHSBT. The 2 centres with recipients 2 & 3 on the list agreed that recipient number 4 was a higher priority and should be given the liver.

Hub Operations were then asked by centre with recipient number 3 if they could be given a payback of an offer, in effect taking the first offer that would be given to the centre with recipient number 1.

This resulted in several phone calls between duty office manager and clinical staff with the result that the centre was told this could not be accommodated. Hub Operations have no way of registering and recording this and errors have been made in the past with pay backs of offers on the NLA scheme.

The centre was satisfied with this answer and there were no further issues but I would like a definitive answer from LAG around the issue of payback offers in case this situation arises again.

Options for consideration

LAG members agree that where super urgent offers are made and accepted out of sequence no pay back of offers can be accommodated.

LAG members would like to see a payback scheme introduced and Hub Operations will look into the options of how this can be delivered.