

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

WAITING TIME FROM START OF DIALYSIS

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Kidney Advisory Group requested that waiting time should be calculated from a patient's first date of starting dialysis instead of the activation date on the kidney transplant waiting list.
- 2 The main justification for changing the way waiting time is calculated is to hopefully make it more equitable for patients due to differences in listing practices across the UK.
- 3 It was agreed that:
 - a. A patient awaiting their first kidney transplant would have their waiting time calculated from first start date of dialysis.
 - b. Patients awaiting a second kidney transplant would have their waiting time calculated from their previous kidney transplant fail date.
 - c. Patients who receive a transplant that fails within 180 days would have their waiting time calculated from their first start date of dialysis prior to the failed transplant.
 - d. Pre-emptive patients waiting time would start at the point of activation on the transplant list.
- 4 During February, March and April 2018 ODT Hub Information Service manually backdated waiting time points to the start date of dialysis for all patients on the kidney waiting list. This continued for all new patients joining the list between May 2018 and August 2018. On 6 September 2018, waiting time from start of dialysis was implemented by IT and is now calculated automatically for all active patients on the kidney waiting list.

RESULTS

- 5 Concern was raised that there may be a fall in the number of pre-emptive patients that receive a transplant following the implementation of waiting time from start of dialysis. Simulations had shown that we might expect a 30% reduction in the number of transplants for pre-emptive patients. **Table 1** shows the number of deceased donor kidney only transplants, by month and dialysis status at transplant, for the year prior to the change and the 9 months following the change. In the year prior to the change, 18% of kidney only transplants from deceased donors were performed pre-emptively. This fell by 28% to 13% in the 9 months following the change.

Table 1 **Number of deceased kidney only transplants by month and dialysis status at transplant, 1 Feb 2017 – 31 Oct 2018**

Month	Total Transplants	Pre-emptive transplants	
	N	N	%
February 2017	159	35	22
March 2017	183	31	17
April 2017	170	33	19
May 2017	211	39	18
June 2017	177	44	25
July 2017	178	22	12
August 2017	192	29	15
September 2017	180	36	20
October 2017	211	39	18
November 2017	207	35	17
December 2017	178	29	16
January 2018	238	37	16
TOTAL	2284	409	18
February 2018	200	19	10
March 2018	236	27	11
April 2018	215	33	15
May 2018	216	40	19
June 2018	154	22	14
July 2018	174	19	11
August 2018	193	31	16
September 2018	169	18	11
October 2018	171	18	11
TOTAL	1728	227	13

- 6 Further concern was raised regarding pre-emptive listing and the time it takes for a patient to start dialysis once they have been registered as active on the kidney waiting list. The Kidney Selection Policy states that pre-emptive listing refers to the listing of patients for transplantation within 6 months of their anticipated need for renal replacement therapy. NHSBT does not collect dialysis start dates post-registration. The UK Renal Registry do collect this, but this data is captured approximately 12-18 months behind and as such we are unable to look at a recent cohort. This data will be analysed for the next Kidney Advisory Group meeting in June 2019 when it is hoped that the UK Renal Registry will have more up-to-date reporting.

SUMMARY

- 7 Since 6th September 2018 waiting time from start of dialysis has been automatically calculated for use in the 2006 Kidney Allocation Scheme.
- 8 There has been a 28% reduction in the number of pre-emptive transplants performed in the 9 months following the introduction compared with the year prior to the introduction.
- 9 Further analysis looking at the time from listing to starting dialysis for pre-emptive patients will be presented at the June 2019 Kidney Advisory Group Meeting.