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EDINBURGH TRANSPLANT CENTRE

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Professor C Watson
KAG Chair
Transplant Unit
Addenbrooke's Hospital
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CAMBRIDGE, CB2 0QQ

2nd of May 2019

Dear Chris,

I would be grateful if you would discuss and clarify the following issue at the forthcoming meeting of KAG.

As you know at the time of consent living donors are required to confirm whether they want the kidney reimplanted, donated to someone else on the waiting list, sent for research or discarded. This is to prevent kidney wastage should the recipient operation unexpectedly not proceed for medical reasons.

We have recently become aware that in the setting of directed living donation, if such an unlikely situation occurs, the recipient does not get priority to a kidney on the transplant waiting list, if their condition allows them to be transplanted at a later date.

This appears to be in contrast to the arrangements in the kidney sharing scheme where if such a situation would occur, the recipient would get priority on the waiting list.

We feel that pairs should be treated equally whether part of direct donation or the kidney sharing scheme as they contribute a kidney to the national pool. Therefore their recipient should subsequently get priority if the initial planned transplant cannot go ahead (usually due to unforeseen situations at the time of induction or during surgery). This situation will be exceptionally rare but the current arrangements raise issues of equity and are likely to dis-incentivise directed donors to choose to allow the removed kidney to be transplanted into a different recipient.

I would be grateful if you could discuss this in KAG and allow direct pairs to be treated in the same way as those enrolled in the kidney sharing scheme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Oniscu', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel Oniscu
Consultant Transplant Surgeon | Honorary Reader
Lead Clinician Living Donor Transplant Service | Edinburgh Transplant Centre