

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE
PANCREAS ADVISORY GROUP**

PANCREAS FAST TRACK SCHEME

BACKGROUND

1. The Pancreas Fast Track Offering Scheme (FTS) was first introduced on 1 December 2010 with the new Pancreas Allocation Scheme and was initiated once the pancreas had been removed from the donor in order to place the donated organ as a matter of urgency. It was further agreed at the Advisory Group meeting in October 2015 that a revised fast track offering scheme would be introduced from 14 December 2015, which would be initiated either if the pancreas had been declined by 4 centres (3 centres for a donor after circulatory death) for donor or organ reasons or once the pancreas had been removed from the donor.
2. Following discussion of the large volume of fast track pancreas offers and low transplantation rate an in-depth analysis was presented at the Advisory Group meeting in November 2018. It was subsequently agreed not to fast track a pancreas if the cold ischaemic time (CIT) was greater than 8 hours at time of potential fast track. This rule took effect from 1 April 2019. No changes were made to the rules triggering fast track offers.

INTRODUCTION

3. This paper audits activity in the five months since the introduction of the CIT cut off rule. Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on both donors after brain death (DBD) and donors after circulatory death (DCD) pancreas donors aged 65 years and under from 1 April to 31 August 2019 and for the same period in 2018 for comparison.

RESULTS

4. **Table 1** shows the number of pancreas donors whose organs were offered through the fast track scheme in the five month time period. Of the 187 pancreas donors, 41% were offered through the scheme in 2019 compared with 42% in 2018. It was intended that the introduction of the CIT cut-off would reduce the number of pancreas donors being fast tracked, but this hasn't been shown in the first five months.
5. For DBD, the proportion of donors fast tracked in 2019 was 37%, a reduction from 42% in 2018. However, for DCD, the proportion of donors fast tracked has increased from 40% in 2018 to 50% in 2019.
6. Overall in 2019, of the 76 pancreas donors offered through the scheme, 19 (25%) were subsequently accepted for transplantation and nine (12%) were transplanted. This is the same proportion as that in 2018. Of the nine transplanted, seven were transplanted as whole organs and two as islets. The three transplanted as islets were offered through the FTS as isolated islets that could not be transplanted into the patient they were isolated for.
7. Since November 2017, ODT Hub Operations staff have been recording the trigger for the fast track offer. In April to August 2019, the main trigger specified for fast tracking 76 donors was "organ already retrieved" in 28 (37%) cases. In 15 (20%) cases the organ had been deemed unusable, in 14 (18%) cases the organ had not been accepted by knife to skin and in 11 (14%) cases the islets had been declined post isolation.

8. Follow-up information is available for some of those organs transplanted following fast track offer in 2018. Of the six whole pancreas transplants, four were functioning at 3-months and two were functioning at a year post-transplant. Of the four islet transplants in 2018, three were routine and one was a priority top-up graft and all are still functioning. For those organs fast tracked in 2019 and transplanted, follow-up is currently due.

ACTION

9. The rule not to offer pancreases via the fast track scheme if the CIT is greater than 8 hours has not yet shown a reduction in the proportion of donors offered via the scheme. The scheme will continue to be monitored and centres are able to opt out of the fast track scheme if they wish.
10. ODT Hub Operations are also in the process of starting a review of the fast track scheme triggers for all organs with the aim to reduce offering via the schemes.

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September 2019

Table 1 Outcome of pancreases offered through the fast track scheme, 1 April - 31 August									
Year	Donor type	Number of pancreas donors	Number offered through FTS (% of donors)	Number accepted for transplantation through FTS			Number transplanted through FTS		
				Whole	Islet	Total	Whole	Islet	Total (% of offered)
2018	DBD	158	67 (42%)	14	6	20	4	3	7 (10%)
	DCD	45	18 (40%)	6	1	7	2	1	3 (17%)
	Total	203	85 (42%)	20	7	27	6	4	10 (12%)
2019	DBD	139	52 (37%)	6	7	13	4	3	7 (13%)
	DCD	48	24 (50%)	6	0	6	2	0	2 (8%)
	Total	187	76 (41%)	12	7	19	6	3	9 (12%)