

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT  
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

**KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP**

**PRE-EMPTIVE LISTING AND WAITING TIME**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1 Since September 2018, waiting time has been determined from activation date on the transplant list or start of dialysis date, whichever is earliest. Prior to this, the waiting time was determined by activation date only. For patients listed pre-emptively, this change had no effect on waiting time points. However, for patients listed after starting dialysis, this gave additional waiting time points to patients already listed.
- 2 This paper has two analyses looking at listing practice. The first investigates the effect of this change in policy on the average waiting time points at each centre. The second looks at periods of suspension for patients listed pre-emptively.

## **DATA AND METHODS**

- 3 To analyse the effect of the change in policy on waiting time points, data on patients listed at 31 March 2018 and 2019 were extracted from the UK Transplant Registry. A snapshot of the waiting time points for each patient active on the list was taken at each of these dates.
- 4 To look at transplant list characteristics of patients listed pre-emptively, data on patients activated for kidney-only transplants between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2019 were extracted from the UK Transplant Registry.

## **RESULTS**

- 5 **Table 1** shows the median average waiting time points by centre at 31 March 2018 and 2019. The average waiting time points increased by 61 days for the UK overall. Also shown is the pre-emptive listing rate for each centre, considering all patients listed at 31 March 2019. This shows that while some centres with a low pre-emptive listing rate saw an increase in the average waiting time points, this was not the case for all centres.

| Centre                   | Median waiting time points |             | Difference | Pre-emptive listing rate (patients active 31 Mar 2019) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------|--|
|                          | 31 Mar 2018                | 31 Mar 2019 |            |  |
| Belfast                  | 366                        | 522         | 156        | 63   |
| Birmingham               | 657                        | 730         | 73         | 48   |
| Bristol                  | 650                        | 675         | 25         | 47   |
| Cambridge                | 337                        | 454         | 117        | 51   |
| Cardiff                  | 385                        | 435         | 50         | 51   |
| Coventry                 | 603                        | 566         | -37        | 41   |
| Edinburgh                | 383                        | 534         | 151        | 52   |
| Glasgow                  | 538                        | 578         | 40         | 63   |
| Leeds                    | 360                        | 537         | 177        | 46   |
| Leicester                | 538                        | 543         | 5          | 60   |
| Liverpool                | 302                        | 676         | 374        | 55   |
| London, Guy's            | 568                        | 605         | 37         | 45   |
| London, St George's      | 714                        | 698         | -16        | 49   |
| London, The Royal Free   | 503                        | 585         | 82         | 55   |
| London, The Royal London | 613                        | 559         | -54        | 42   |
| London, WLRTC            | 647                        | 689         | 42         | 44   |
| Manchester               | 527                        | 577         | 50         | 65   |
| Newcastle                | 663                        | 628         | -35        | 47   |
| Nottingham               | 460                        | 594         | 134        | 55   |
| Oxford                   | 460                        | 471         | 11         | 47   |
| Plymouth                 | 518                        | 490         | -28        | 47   |
| Portsmouth               | 490                        | 509         | 19         | 56   |
| Sheffield                | 713                        | 732         | 19         | 50   |
| <b>UK</b>                | <b>521</b>                 | <b>582</b>  | <b>61</b>  | <b>51</b>  |

- 6 Suspended time on the transplant list is also included in waiting time. Many patients are listed and then suspended immediately following activation. For pre-emptively listed patients, this will give additional waiting time points. **Table 2** shows the number of patients listed pre-emptively, who were suspended for 150 days or more within their first 180 days of activation. For the UK overall, 4% of patients listed pre-emptively were suspended for more than 150 days. Cardiff and Glasgow had the highest rates with 13% and 12% respectively.

| <b>Table 2 -</b>         |   | Number of pre-emptively listed patients suspended for more than 150 days within first 180 days of activation on the UK transplant list |          |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|----------|--|
| <b>Centre</b>            | <b>Patients pre-emptively listed 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2019</b> | <b>Patients suspended for 150 days or more</b>   |          |  |
|                          |   | <b>N</b>   | <b>%</b> |  |
| Belfast                  | 167   | 12   | 7        |  |
| Birmingham               | 294   | 12   | 4        |  |
| Bristol                  | 261   | 7  | 3        |  |
| Cambridge                | 243   | 5  | 2        |  |
| Cardiff                  | 151   | 20   | 13       |  |
| Coventry                 | 77  | 2  | 3        |  |
| Edinburgh                | 183   | 15   | 8        |  |
| Glasgow                  | 318   | 39   | 12       |  |
| Leeds                    | 300   | 5  | 2        |  |
| Leicester                | 206   | 1  | 0        |  |
| Liverpool                | 177   | 6  | 3        |  |
| London, Guy's            | 238   | 6  | 3        |  |
| London, GOSH             | 17  | 0  | 0        |  |
| London, St George's      | 205   | 3  | 1        |  |
| London, The Royal Free   | 237   | 5  | 2        |  |
| London, The Royal London | 235   | 4  | 2        |  |
| London, WLRTC            | 300   | 7  | 2        |  |
| Manchester               | 474   | 16   | 3        |  |
| Newcastle                | 219   | 4  | 2        |  |
| Nottingham               | 151   | 4  | 3        |  |
| Oxford                   | 231   | 4  | 2        |  |
| Plymouth                 | 91  | 0  | 0        |  |
| Portsmouth               | 194   | 8  | 4        |  |
| Sheffield                | 107   | 1  | 1        |  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>5076</b>   | <b>186</b>   | <b>4</b> |  |

## SUMMARY

- 7 In September 2018 there was a change in policy for waiting time points to start from the earliest of dialysis start date or activation date. Between March 2018 and March 2019, an increase in average waiting time points of 60 days was observed for the UK. There is no evidence that there was an impact on centres that can be directly correlated with their pre-emptive listing rate.
- 8 Overall, 4% of pre-emptively listed patients were suspended for 150 days or more within 180 days of being actively listed for kidney transplant.

**Rebecca Hendry and Matthew Robb**

**Statistics and Clinical Studies**

**November 2019**