

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
National Organ Donation Committee

Untimely referrals

Introduction

1. Concern has been expressed in the donation community as to the number of referrals made in a timely manner for SNOD deployment. This paper investigates the number of referrals where the referral to approach time exceeds three hours.

Data

2. Data were obtained from the national Potential Donor Audit (PDA) on all eligible DCD and DBD patients in 2019 who were referred and their family approached.
3. Preliminary analysis of the data showed that some observations in the dataset either did not contain a referral or approach date, or the approach date was recorded as before or simultaneous to the referral. These missing and erroneous observations were not included in subsequent analysis. **Table 1** summarises the number of excluded observations. In total 317 (9.4% of data obtained) observations were removed.

Table 1 Summary of data excluded

	N	% of all data
Missing data	260	7.7
Incorrect observations	57	1.7
Total excluded	317	9.4

Results

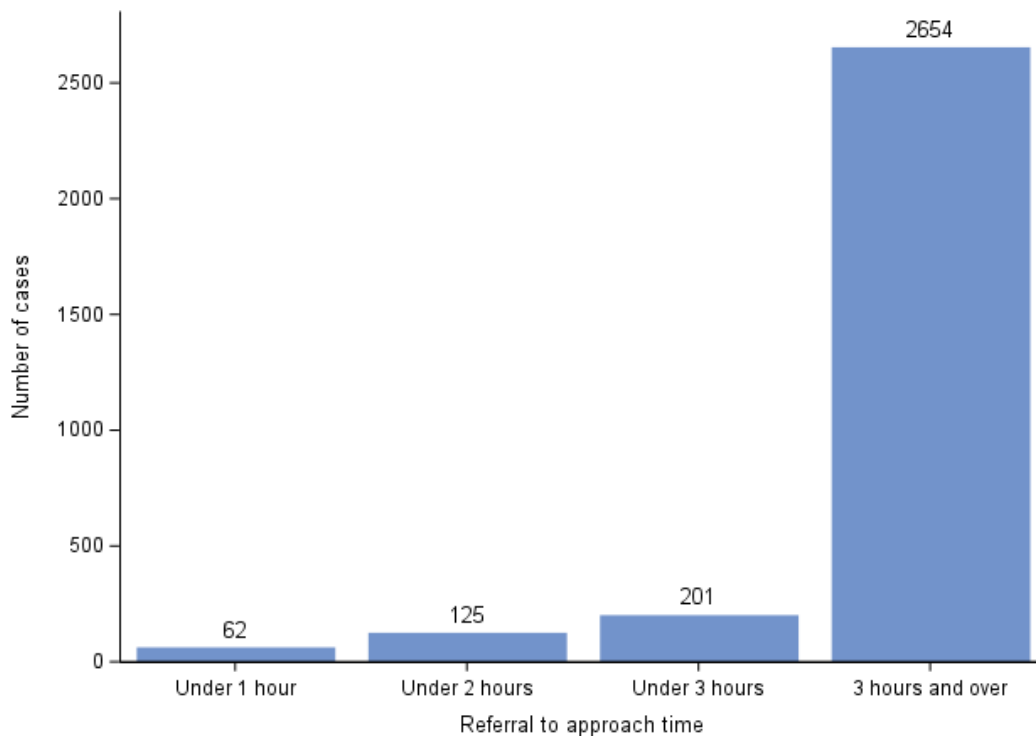
4. **Table 2** shows the highest, lowest and median times from referral to approach. The fastest referral to approach was 4 minutes, the longest was 23 days 2 hours. The median was 17 hours 16 minutes.

Table 2 Summary of referral to approach times (HH:MM), 2019

Lowest	Median	Highest
00:04	17:16	554:00

5. **Figure 1** shows the number of referral to approach times under 1 hour, under 2 hours, under 3 hours and exceeding 3 hours. Most cases had a referral to approach time exceeding 3 hours (2654 cases, 87.3%). Few cases have referral to approach times in the lower intervals, with the number of cases decreasing as referral to approach time decreases.

Figure 1 Referral to approach times, 2019

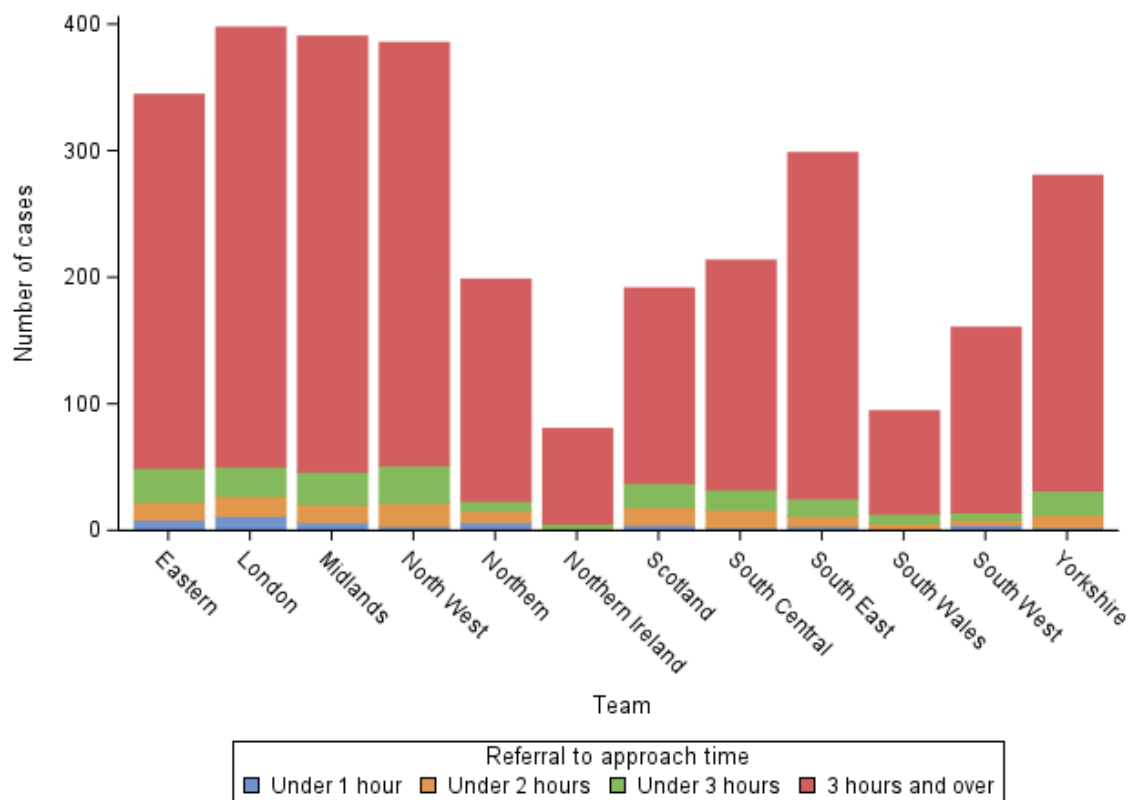


6. **Table 3** shows referral to approach times by SNOD presence. The majority of cases still have a referral to approach time exceeding 3 hours when both a SNOD is present and when a SNOD is not present for the approach. When a SNOD is present a higher proportion of cases have referral to approach times in the intervals under 3 hours, under 2 hours and under 1 hour and a smaller proportion exceeding 3 hours.

Table 3 Referral to approach time by SNOD presence

	No SNOD present		SNOD present	
	N	%	N	%
Under 1 hour	18	1.4	56	3.2
Under 2 hours	35	2.7	90	5.2
Under 3 hours	60	4.6	141	8.1
3 hours and over	1204	91.4	1450	83.5
Total	1317	100.0	1737	100.0

7. **Figure 2** shows the referral to approach times by team. Eastern, London, Midlands and Northern teams reported the most cases with referral to approach times below 1 hour. These teams also reported more referral to approach times under 2 hours and under 3 hours.

Figure 2 Referral to approach times by team, 2019

Summary

8. Of the data obtained 317 observations (9.4% of all observations) were removed due to missing data or errors in the data.
9. The lowest referral to approach time recorded in 2019 was 4 minutes, the highest was 23 days 2 hours and the median was 17 hours 16 minutes.
10. Most referral to approach times exceeded 3 hours.
11. When a SNOD was present for the approach a higher proportion of referral to approach times were in shorter time intervals when compared to those where a SNOD was not present.
12. The Eastern, London, Midlands and Northern teams reported the most referral to approach times in the time intervals below 3 hours.

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January 2019