



**Blood and Transplant**

**COVID-19**

**Bulletin 3**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

## **Emergency (and temporary) response to COVID-19 in Donation/Transplantation Criteria**

The COVID-19 pandemic is stretching the resources of the NHS. We continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis, with transplant commissioners, across the UK. It is clear that the stretch is taut in some hospitals around the country, at breaking point in others.

As a result we will, from 16.00 pm on 23/03/2020, mobilise and retrieve on only a subset of Donors for the purposes of transplantation.

- 1) To reduce retrieval and transplant by 50% SNOD teams are asked to

*Decline all DBD donors of 60 years and over, and all DCD donors of 50 years and over.*

- 2) This reduces actual DBD donors by 33%, and actual DCD donors by 66%, with an overall reduction of 47% in actual donors.

- 3) This reduces projected donor attendances by 51%. This reduces non proceeding attendances to 12% overall from 18% overall.

We will monitor the situation closely and we will make further changes when the need to do so arises.

To **critical care staff**, please continue to discuss possible referrals with our teams and we will action as guidelines recommend (guidelines introduced by our medical team, including the chairs of all the organ specific advisory groups)

To **specialist nurses and retrieval teams**, the number of donors attended will be reduced by an appreciable amount, while affecting organ utilisation for life-saving transplant as minimally as possible.

To **transplant teams**, you will see an appreciable drop in offers with a concomitant increase in the likelihood of acceptance, after review of your own local resource, significantly higher because of the characteristics of the new donor criteria.

### PPE NORS Retrieval Teams

We are aware of the potential for health care workers to be at increased risk of COVID 19 infection, given that we work in environments where COVID19 patients are more prevalent than in the community.

We have further enquiries in relation to PPE and NORS retrieval teams. We are working with our expert group and will send further information tomorrow morning on this subject

## **COVID-19 testing**

Over the weekend we have had some issues with COVID-19 testing. Some concerns are in relation to endotracheal testing. We are working through this and will update as soon as we can do so.

We have amended the SNOD Form (FRM 6439), to include more specific details in relation to any COVID-19 symptoms. The updated form is available on the clinical website:

<https://nhsbtbde.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/17992/frm6439-covid-19-snod-checklist.pdf>

It is worth noting that donation should only proceed when there is no suspicion of COVID-19 with negative swab results. We have also re-iterated that, in relation to COVID-19, the full medical and clinical history should be considered alongside negative swab results. More guidance on the full risk analysis will be included in information sent tomorrow.

We have been asked by NHSE colleagues to include the link below:

[COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for aerosol generating procedures - GOV.UK](#)