



**Blood and Transplant**

**COVID-19 Bulletin Number 7**

**Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

We are continuing regular calls with all UK commissioners in planning Living Donation and Deceased Donation and transplantation, in the context of the pandemic. There are approximately **1500** email addresses on this circulation list, so the reach is reasonable but please encourage colleagues to add their emails, if not already included, to [Caroline.Wills@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:Caroline.Wills@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

Dear Colleague

This Bulletin gives an update on the situation across the UK.

We have also begun the planning for Recovery, please see the relevant section below

## **Facilitating Organ Donation**

Despite the current pandemic we continue to average approximately one donor a day. Up to date donor and transplant numbers per organ group can be found using the link below.

<https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/18282/daily-numbers-150420.pdf>

## **Previous living kidney donors and COVID 19**

In previous bulletins, we highlighted that people who previously donated a kidney in Scotland were advised to shield. This was an error and has been corrected but concerns continue to be raised through charities and the NHSBT enquiry line.

Healthy living donors with a single kidney do not need to shield as they are at no greater risk than anyone else of contracting COVID- 19 or the symptoms associated with it. If someone has other health issues that classify them as high risk, they may be advised to shield.

## **Retrieval Teams**

NORS teams continue to work at almost full capacity, allowing us to make the most of the donation opportunities available, wherever those occur in the UK and this allows urgent transplantation in the few kidney centres that have managed to remain open, as well as liver and cardiothoracic units.

## **Organ Allocation and Offering**

### **LIVER**

Changes to the Liver allocation scheme appear to be working well, and we continue to be able to transplant super-urgent and urgent liver patients.

### **RENAL**

Renal changes appear to be working well. At the time of writing, there are 5 renal centres open and 2 paediatric renal centres who are taking offers. Those centres that remain open are considering an urgent group of patients only.

### **CARDIAC**

Cardiac changes implemented are also working well. We will continue to monitor over the coming days.

## **Lung**

Two centres closed to lung offers. Other centres considering offers on a case-by case basis.

We ask that if any centre requires changes to acceptance criteria to notify NHSBT formally, via the Clinical governance team – [clinicalgovernance.odt@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:clinicalgovernance.odt@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

This will enable us to make the changes required and inform the individuals who require to know internally.

## **Deceased Donor Transplantation – Update**

Please remember that a link to open/closed centres is available

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/transplant-centre-closures-and-restrictions/>

We keep it as a web-link since the situation changes regularly

## **Deceased donor kidney transplantation**

No change from previous Bulletin

## **Lung Transplantation**

Two centres now closed to lung transplantation.

## **Heart Transplantation**

No change from previous Bulletin.

## **Liver Transplantation**

All units remain open to either highly urgent or super urgent cases with a case by case study for each donor offer.

## **Pancreas and Islet cell Transplants**

### **Pancreas**

All UK solid organ pancreas transplant centres have now closed.

### **Islet Cells**

These programmes have largely been suspended but there are a few patients who require their second transplant and are nearing the end of the immunosuppression window period – there are two laboratories that are open for islet cell isolation.

## **Multi-Visceral / Intestinal Transplant**

Three of the four multi-visceral/intestinal transplant programmes remain open, there is limited activity based on individual risk/benefit assessment and local ICU capacity, but a few patients are in the urgent category in the centres that remain open.

## **Tissue Donation**

No change from previous Bulletin.

## **Recovery process**

We are now turning to consideration of the recovery process post COVID-19. Please see below for the plans and processes being put in place.

If colleagues reading this have suggestions for this phase, please contact Chris Callaghan who is leading via email:- [Chris.Callaghan@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Chris.Callaghan@gstt.nhs.uk)

- To consider prioritising both recipients and donors – including live donors for Covid testing (especially when an antibody test becomes available)
- Each decision that has been taken to react to the Covid crisis in the last weeks will be evaluated for full or partial reversal by a team within OTDT and including UK commissioners.
- It is accepted that the decision to re-open a programme will be a local one, considering the local resource scan, the ability to segregate Covid positive and negative patients and the local Covid 19 community profile
- That said, the extended Medical team is working on a set of conditions that should be in place as units are supported in re-starting. As noted, Chris Callaghan is kindly leading on this
- It has been highlighted that COVID patients will each take 2-4 weeks to recover in ICU which will have an impact on the time it takes for ICU levels to get back to normal working.
- In the US, the FDA have produced a road map document to re-opening services. Appended below for interest
- As part of the next stage, Lisa Burnapp would like to consider the conversations clinicians have with living donors and families to help build confidence back into our patient group.

## **Registry, information sent out and progress in linkage**

**We are delighted to report that the linkage with national databases (relevant to Covid-19) is moving forward quickly**

I am grateful to Rommel Ramanan and Lisa Mumford in this.

- In Scotland, Public Health Scotland and National Services Division senior colleagues have facilitated a procedure whereby ODT should be able link up and accurately capture all the transplant recipients who are COVID positive, including any patients who have succumbed to the virus.
- In England, we are exploring the linkage of data from NHS digital with our own Covid registry and, separately linkage with deaths registered due to Covid in waiting list and transplant patients

- We are also pursuing links with bona fide International registries; such data sharing would be from an OTDT central source.

A reminder that registry data is available and a map of COVID-19 in wait list and organ transplant patients by NHS region and organ can be found [here](#)

## **BTS and NHSBT Webinar**

### Save the Date

Webinar to provide an update on COVID-19 in the transplant community- details attached to this bulletin. The webinar will be held on Thursday 23rd April 2020 Time: 13:00 - 14:00

**ICNARC (Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre)** Update on COVID In Critical Care, attached with this bulletin.

## **Publications/Useful Links**

FDA have produced a road map to recovery [here](#)

For information only – Clinical Trials document available [here](#)

All information about policies concerning COVID 19 etc in the Eurotransplant countries is published [here](#)

BTS/Centre of Evidence for Transplantation have collaborated to provide an open access repository of emerging evidence for solid organ donation and transplantation, which is held within the Transplant Library, available [here](#)

NHS England in relation to COVID-19 and those NHS staff who are self-isolating can be found [here](#)

SaBTO guidance with a new Annex on COVID-19 [here](#)

### **New NICE guidance on:**

COVID-19 rapid guideline: community-based care of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: dermatological conditions treated with drugs affecting the immune response [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: cystic fibrosis [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: delivery of systemic anticancer treatments [here](#)

COVID-19 Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care in adults [here](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: dialysis service delivery [here](#)

### Updated articles on organ transplantation

1. Ju C, Li N, Qiu T, Xue W, Shi B. Clinical characteristics of novel coronavirus pneumonia in organ transplant recipients and management strategy during the epidemic (1st edition). *Organ Transplantation* 2020;11(2):185-nullJournal Article.
2. Gandolfini I, Delsante M, Fiaccadori E, Zaza G, Manenti L, Degli Antoni A, et al. COVID-19 in Kidney Transplant Recipients. *American Journal of Transplantation* 2020;n/a(n/a):10.1111/ajt.15891
3. Guidelines for organ donation and transplantation in China during novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic. *Organ Transplantation* 2020;11(2):179-nullJournal Article
4. Chen C-Y, Chen SF, Hollander SA, Rosenthal D, Maeda K, Burgart A, et al. Donor Heart Selection During The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study. *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation* 2020:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healun.2020.03.018>
5. Woolley AE, Mehra MR. Dilemma of Organ Donation in Transplantation and The COVID-19 Pandemic. *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation* 2020:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healun.2020.03.017>
6. Seminari E, Colaneri M, Sambo M, Gallazzi I, Di Matteo A, Silvia R, et al. SARS Cov2 infection in a renal transplanted patients. A case report. *Am J Transplant* 2020:10.1111/ajt.15902
7. Huang J, Lin H, Wu Y, Fang Y, Kumar R, Chen G, et al. COVID-19 in post-transplantation patients-report of two cases. *Am J Transplant* 2020:10.1111/ajt.15896
8. Cardoso FS. Liver transplantation in an ICU dominated by COVID-19. *Liver Transpl* 2020:10.1002/lt.25770
9. Bin L, Yangzhong W, Yuanyuan Z, Huibo S, Fanjun Z, Zhishui C. Successful Treatment of Severe COVID-19 Pneumonia in a Liver Transplant Recipient. *Am J Transplant* 2020:10.1111/ajt.15901
10. Angelico R, Trapani S, Manzia TM, Lombardini L, Tisone G, Cardillo M. The COVID-19 outbreak in Italy: initial implications for organ transplantation programs. *Am J Transplant* 2020:10.1111/ajt.15904
11. Zhang H, Chen Y, Yuan Q, Xia Q-X, Zeng X-P, Peng J-T, et al. Identification of Kidney Transplant Recipients with Coronavirus Disease 2019. *Eur Urol* 2020:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eururo.2020.03.030>
12. Ju CR, Lian QY, Zhang JH, Qiu T, Cai ZT, Jiang WY, et al. Recommended prophylactic and management strategies for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 infection in transplant recipients. *Chronic Diseases and Translational Medicine* 2020:10.1016/j.cdtm.2020.02.003

### Reference on organ transplantation

1. Qin J, Wang H, Qin X, et al. Perioperative Presentation of COVID-19 Disease in a Liver Transplant Recipient. *Hepatology* 2020 doi: 10.1002/hep.31257

The Systematic Review Initiative has started searching the WHO COVID database and MEdRix for pre-peer review manuscripts on topics relevant to NHSBT. Here are the current articles related to organ transplantation. They are case reports and reviews

1. Aslam S, Mehra MR. COVID-19: Yet Another Coronavirus Challenge in Transplantation. *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation* 2020 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healun.2020.03.007>
2. D'Antiga L. Coronaviruses and immunosuppressed patients. The facts during the third epidemic. *Liver transplantation : official publication of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the International Liver Transplantation Society* 2020 doi: 10.1002/lt.25756
3. Guillen E, Pineiro GJ, Revuelta I, et al. Case report of COVID-19 in a kidney transplant recipient: Does immunosuppression alter the clinical presentation? *American Journal of Transplantation : Official Journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons* 2020 doi: 10.1111/ajt.15874
4. Lu X, Ming C, Wen Z, et al. Clinical analysis of 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on one case with living-related kidney transplantation. *Chinese Journal of Organ Transplantation* 2020;41(0):E006-E06.
5. Pan L, Zeng J, Yang H. Challenges and countermeasures for organ donation during the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic: the experience of Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital. *Intensive Care Medicine* 2020 doi: 10.1007/s00134-020-05978-8
6. Qiu T, Wang J, Zhou J, et al. The report of two cases infection with novel coronavirus (2019-ncov) after kidney transplantation and the association literature analyzation. *Chinese Journal of Organ Transplantation* 2020;41(0):E004-E04.
7. Tu Y, Wu X, Liu F, et al. Two clinical cases of Novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) in renal transplant recipients. *Chinese Journal of Organ Transplantation* 2020;41(0):E005-E05.

The Transplantation Society (TTS) and our journal Transplantation have developed online resources to keep you informed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

- TTS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard  
[www.tts.org/covid-19](http://www.tts.org/covid-19)
- Transplantation Global Transplantation COVID Report  
[www.tts.org/txicovid19](http://www.tts.org/txicovid19)

We are also requesting contributions and news from the transplant community to be sent to [covid-19@tts.org](mailto:covid-19@tts.org) for inclusion on our resources page.