



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 8

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

23rd April 2020

We are continuing regular calls with all UK commissioners in planning Deceased Donation, Transplantation and Living Donation, 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

Dear Colleague

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

The main focus of work this week is predominantly on the Recovery phase. The Recovery document will be finalised today, and we will be in a position to distribute to the Clinical leads of each centre via the Advisory Group Chairs early next week. We will also place this document on the website.

I am most grateful to Chris Callaghan and Derek Manas for leading on the main document and to Ines Ushiro-Lumb and Gabi Oniscu for the section on Covid-19.

This document comes from the extended Medical Team and has been seen by the representatives of commissioners of transplantation for the UK.

BTS/NHSBT Webinar

I know that many of you had the opportunity to watch the webinar on Thursday this week with Ewen Harrison, Lisa Mumford, Gareth Jones, Claire Sharp and Beatriz Dominguez-Gil giving a superb set of presentations.

I found it highly educational and certainly learnt more about Covid-19 generally and in particular, in the context of transplantation.

I understand that the webinar has been captured and may be available for those who missed the live broadcast. Please contact <https://bts.org.uk/>

There is a further webinar next Thursday 30th April 2020, on the theme of Recovery. Another set of excellent speakers have been arranged for the programme.

Thanks to colleagues in BTS, and in particular all the speakers as well as Nizam Mamode who organised the webinar

Weekly Report on the Registry Data on COVID-19 in Transplantation

The report will be produced by Statistics and Clinical Studies, and distributed weekly to all Clinical Leads and Recipient Coordinators.

This report contains significant detail on outcome with breakdown to areas/centres and as such threatens anonymisation. Given that this Bulletin is widely distributed, we have decided to release the data to centre Clinical Leads, for review in the Multi-disciplinary groups.

We now have quite a lot of data but, clearly, when the detail increases to a point where anonymisation is not an issue, we will distribute more widely.

We are also delighted to report that our attempts to link with National Registries have been largely successful and this will improve the value of this data immeasurably in times to come.

I am grateful to Lisa Mumford and to Rommel Ramanan for this work.

Facilitating Organ Donation

Despite the current pandemic we continue to average approximately one to two donors a day, although I am pleased to report that there is evidence of an increase in donation referral activity in some areas of the UK.

Up to date donor and transplant numbers per organ group can be found using the link below

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

Further Information on Shielding

The following information has been provided by NHS E on the issue of shielding and notification to vulnerable patients. Key points:

- Shielded group identification process – via local identification through trusts/GPs and central searches have resulted in more people added. Still a time delay between identification and registration for support but this is improving.
- As soon as the Trust/GP sends a letter and includes the patient in the submission to NHS Digital patients should be considered to be on the list. There is a 14-day time lag to being visible on the patient shielded list.
- There is no additional letter now being sent from a central source to advise patients to shield.
- Self-referral for shielded patients (only) is due to go live on Wednesday 22nd April.

The following sources of information may be helpful:

- Responders Programme now accepting referrals from charities - more information at <https://volunteering.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/nhs-volunteer-responders-portal/referral>
- NHS digital has issued guidance on the Shielded Patient List (SPL) to assist with queries <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list>
- Useful guidance to hospitals <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/spl-guidance-for-hospitals>

Retrieval Teams

Retrieval remains fully supported by NORS teams, with minimal reduction in staffing due to COVID 19 activity. This continues to be supported by NHSBT

Organ Allocation and Offering

LIVER

We continue to be able to transplant super-urgent and urgent liver patients. At the time of writing there are 4 Super-Urgent liver patients listed: 2 adults and 2 paediatrics.

RENAL

I am pleased to say that some renal transplant centre are beginning to re-open , with some opening for selected patients. At the time of writing, there are 6 renal centres open and 2 paediatric renal centres who are taking offers.

CARDIAC

Cardiac changes implemented are working well. We continue to have a number of patients on Super-Urgent and Urgent heart transplant waiting list. At the time of writing the information below reflects patients waiting

Hearts	Super-Urgent	Urgent
Adults	1	24
Paediatrics	0	16

Lung

Two centres continue to be 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

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

As noted above some centres starting to re-open.

Lung Transplantation

Two centres remain 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

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

No change from previous bulletin but important to note there are a few patients in the urgent category listed in the centres that remain open.

Tissue Donation

No change from previous Bulletin.

Public Health England – PPE

An area that continues to get attention – PPE. PHE – CMO guidance issued on PPE on 17th April 2020.

Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Acute Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.

<https://www.cas.mhra.gov.uk/ViewandAcknowledgment/ViewAlert.aspx?AlertID=103031>

COVID-19 Organ Donation International information sharing - Please see **attached** Meeting notes April 15, 2020.

Publications/Useful Links

In the last Bulletin, a recovery phase document / publication was wrongly attributed to the FDA. In fact, it is from a US thinktank and the document and thoughts should be treated as such. Sorry for any confusion

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

All information about policies concerning COVID 19 etc in the Euro transplant 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](#)

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
- Transplantation Global Transplantation COVID Report
www.tts.org/txicovid19

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

