

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE
PANCREAS ADVISORY GROUP**

PANCREAS FAST TRACK SCHEME

BACKGROUND

1. The Pancreas Fast Track Offering Scheme (FTS) was first introduced on 1 December 2010 with the new Pancreas Allocation Scheme and was initiated once the pancreas had been removed from the donor in order to place the donated organ as a matter of urgency. It was further agreed at the Advisory Group meeting in October 2015 that a revised fast track offering scheme would be introduced from 14 December 2015, which would be initiated either if the pancreas had been declined by 4 centres (3 centres for a donor after circulatory death) for donor or organ reasons or once the pancreas had been removed from the donor.
2. Following discussion of the large volume of fast track pancreas offers and low transplantation rate an in-depth analysis was presented at the Advisory Group meeting in November 2018. It was subsequently agreed not to fast track a pancreas if the cold ischaemic time (CIT) was greater than 8 hours at time of potential fast track. This rule took effect from 1 April 2019. No changes were made to the rules triggering fast track offers.

INTRODUCTION

3. This paper audits activity in the 11 months since the introduction of the CIT cut off rule. Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on both donors after brain death (DBD) and donors after circulatory death (DCD) pancreas donors aged 65 years and under from 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020 and for 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019 for comparison.

RESULTS

4. **Table 1** shows the number of pancreas donors whose organs were offered through the fast track scheme in the 11 month time period. Of the 427 pancreas donors, 40% were offered through the scheme in 2019/20 compared with 43% in 2018/19. It was intended that the introduction of the CIT cut-off would considerably reduce the number of pancreas donors being fast tracked, but this hasn't been shown in these first 11 months.
5. For DBD, the proportion of donors fast tracked in 2019/20 was 37%, a reduction from 44% in 2018/19. However, for DCD, the proportion of donors fast tracked has increased from 39% in 2018/19 to 49% in 2019/20.
6. Overall in 2019/20, of the 172 pancreas donors offered through the scheme, 48 (28%) were subsequently accepted for transplantation and 22 (13%) were transplanted. Of the 22 transplanted, 16 were transplanted as whole organs and six as islets. The six transplanted as islets were offered through the FTS as isolated islets that could not be transplanted into the patient they were isolated for.
7. Since November 2017, ODT Hub Operations staff have been recording the trigger for the fast track offer. In April 2019 to February 2020, the main trigger specified for fast tracking 172 donors was "organ already retrieved" in 66 (38%) cases. In 31 (18%) cases the organ had been deemed unusable, in 31 (18%) cases the organ had not been accepted by knife to skin and in 29 (17%) cases the organ had been declined by 3 (DCD) or 4 (DBD) centres.

8. Follow-up information is available for some of those organs transplanted following fast track offer in the 2018/19 period. Of the 12 whole pancreas transplants, four were functioning at 3-months and eight were functioning at a year post-transplant. Of the seven islet transplants, five were routine and two were a priority top-up graft and all are still functioning. For those organs fast tracked in 2019/20 and transplanted, three were functioning at 3-months and follow-up is due for the remaining transplants.

ACTION

9. Following discussion at the last PAG meeting, that this rule has not reduced the proportion of donors being offered via the fast track scheme, further analysis was performed with a view to reduce the CIT cut-off to four hours for whole organs and leave the cut-off at eight hours for islets. This analysis, sent round to Members earlier this year, showed that very few organs fast tracked with a CIT of over 4 hours were subsequently transplanted and there was a general consensus that the cut-off should be reduced to 4 hours for whole organs.
10. A request has now been made for separate fast track listings of whole and islet centres in order to facilitate fast tracking pancreases with a CIT over four hours to islet centres only.
11. PAG members are asked to formerly approve the CIT cut-off of four hours for whole organs, retaining the cut-off of eight hours for islets. Once the separate fast track centre listings are available the new rule will be implemented within Hub Operations.

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**Table 1 Outcome of pancreases offered through the fast track scheme,
1 April 2018 – 28 February 2019 and 1 April 2019 to 29 February 2020**

Year	Donor type	Number of pancreas donors	Number offered through FTS (% of donors)	Number accepted for transplantation through FTS			Number transplanted through FTS		Total (% of offered)
				Whole	Islet	Total	Whole	Islet	
2018/19	DBD	330	144 (44%)	24	15	39	9	6	15 (10%)
	DCD	97	38 (39%)	9	2	11	3	1	4 (11%)
2018/19	Total	427	182 (43%)	33	17	50	12	7	19 (10%)
2019/20	DBD	314	117 (37%)	20	12	32	10	5	15 (13%)
	DCD	113	55 (49%)	14	2	16	6	1	7 (13%)
2019/20	Total	427	172 (40%)	34	14	48	16	6	22 (13%)