



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 11

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

14th May 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

A brief update on the situation across the UK.

Living Donation- HTA licensing

The KAG specific guidance for re-opening of transplant centres will be updated again this week to include more detail about living donation. Please ensure that you refer to the latest version on our website page at <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/> and contact us for further advice if needed.

Many centres as part of their recovery are considering re-starting Living Donor programmes at different establishments. The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) has published licencing guidance for transplant centres considering using different premises, which will be updated as required. Please refer to the latest version at <https://www.hta.gov.uk/policies/guidance-transplant-centres-considering-using-different-premises>

In their latest Living Donation Newsletter, circulated to living donor coordinators and Independent Assessors this week, the HTA provide guidance on the use of on-line technology to facilitate Independent Assessments for living donors and recipients. Further HTA guidance will follow on the consent requirements for living donors and recipients in the context of COVID-19.

Donor Criteria Relaxation (DCD)

At the most recent meeting of the Clinical Team, it was agreed that we would move to relax further the Donor Criteria for DCD, back to age 60 years.

At this stage, this will mainly affect the Renal transplant centres and the process to take this further is being led by Julie Whitney, for the Hub and Rommel Ramanan, representing the Clinical Leads for the renal transplant centres who are meeting regularly.

The position for the liver units will be reviewed at their separate meeting shortly.

In this, we will take into account the need for us to have robust rotas in place for Specialist Nurses returning from the frontline. We will also be liaising with Intensive Care Colleagues as we begin to consider relaxing the Donor Criteria for DCD.

Further information on this move will be communicated as the planning is completed.

PPE

As you will be aware, there has been a revision of guidance by the UK government last weekend, coming into effect this week. Letters have been sent to all NORS Retrieval teams.

‘If you can, wear a face covering in an enclosed space where social distancing isn’t possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet’.

The full guidance is provided here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home#face-coverings>

Message below from Antonia Cronin, with a request for your opinions on how the transplant community in the UK has responded to COVID- 19 and what we can learn from this period about access to transplantation.

Facilitating Organ Donation

We are continuing to see a slow but steady increase in donation numbers.

Up to date donor and transplant numbers per organ group can be found using the link below <https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/18577/daily-numbers-140520.pdf>

Retrieval Teams

NORS teams remain at almost full capacity and currently are able to cover all retrieval activity. Hub Operations are contacting NORS teams daily to check their availability and we continue to monitor the situation closely. We are grateful to all the NORS teams who have continued to support retrieval under difficult circumstances.

Organ Allocation and Offering

LIVER

We continue to be able to transplant super-urgent and urgent liver patients. At the time of writing there is one adult super-urgent listed. At the time of writing there is one super-urgent adult listed.

RENAL

Repeat from last bulletin, but by way of reminder as the deadline is tomorrow.

If your centre is considering opening for a selected patient group rather than your full list, there is an option for us to 'mass' suspend your patients, after which you could selectively activate your chosen group of patients.

We are asking centres to work with us as early as possible so that we have an awareness of your intentions to use this service, we will not hold you to this but will allow us to have a direction of travel for each unit and plan in the required resources in the coming weeks to support this work – if you can email Mike Gumn (michael.gumn@nhsbt.nhs.uk) as soon as possible.

The centre specific criteria are updated yearly, and we are now in a position to offer this service on a more frequent basis. We have proposed that this will be monthly until August then we will review the requirements of this service with KAG.

The criteria will be updated on the third Tuesday of every month. A list of the current criteria by centre will be circulated a week before the change and we ask for you to reply with any changes by lunch time on the Friday of that week.

We will be running the first centre-based review on the 19th May and have attached the current criteria for your review, **if you can please respond by 12:00 15th May 2020 by emailing KidneyAgeCriteria@nhsbt.nhs.uk any changes that you have.**

CARDIAC

We continue to have a number of patients on Urgent heart transplant waiting list. At the time of writing the information below reflects patients waiting

| Hearts | Super-Urgent | Urgent |
|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Adults | 2 | 23 |
| Paediatrics | 0 | 16 |

Lung

Centres considering offers on a case-by case basis

| Lungs | Urgent |
|-------------|--------|
| Adults | 2 |
| Paediatrics | 1 |

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

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

Centres considering on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Tissue Donation

No change from previous Bulletin.

Antonia Cronin has written asking to publicise a survey on access to transplantation in this extraordinary time, she says..

We want to hear your opinions on how the transplant community in the UK has responded and what we can learn from this period about access to transplantation. If you are willing to share your views, please complete a brief survey, which should take no more than 5-10 minutes via:

https://herts.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cG9g4b5ZUEhPHOB

This has Ethics approval. I have been working with Dr Shivani Sharma on this. Shivani is the Head of the Psychology group at the University of Hertfordshire:

Dr Shivani Sharma, MBPsS, PGCert, FHEA, CPsychol

Executive Lead: Equality, Diversity and Widening Participation

University of Hertfordshire

Many thanks

Antonia Cronin

Publications/Useful Links

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](#)

COVID-19 rapid guideline: gastrointestinal and liver conditions treated with drugs affecting the immune response [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/txjcovid19

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.