



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 12

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

21st 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

We have tried to note any actions that have been taken, since the last Bulletin, in trying to support the recovery and rebuild of transplantation across the UK. Updates, where appropriate are also added below.

I am very grateful, once again to Chris Callaghan, Rommel Ramanan and the wider medical team for updating the guidance that we issued, on recovery, as outlined below:

Guidance for the re-opening of transplant centres

Updated version of POL296 - NHSBT re-opening document can be found [here](#)

KAG guidance for re-opening or expansion of kidney transplant programs and COVID-19

Updated version of the KAG guidance can be found [here](#)

These two documents, and others will be reviewed on a regular basis in the next weeks. That is why we have asked that you do not print these out, but rather use the electronic links to ensure you have access to the most recent versions

Specialist Nurses have collected specific detail in relation to COVID-19 to aid with transplant decision making. This week, in response to a CAS alert regarding a change to the general case definition for COVID-19 which now includes a loss of or change in smell or taste, we have **amended FRM 6439** to add in a new question in relation to this (taste and smell) - Q8. We have taken the opportunity to make minor amendments to Q7, Q9 and Q16

Updated version of FRM 6539 can be found [here](#)

Waiting List/Transplant Covid-19 Registry data

Because of the work of a few people including, of course, Lisa Mumford from the Stats team, the data from this registry is now linked to other data registries and is therefore becoming stronger and more important in helping us all make decisions for the future.

Some of the most recent data was shared with Clinical leads of the units at the end of last week. A writing group is preparing a rapid publication in which the available data is analysed.

We will publicise this here and elsewhere as soon as available to aid in clinician decision making and patient information for consent.

Transplant Centres Re-opening

We are aware that all centres are planning how best to re-open or how to extend their service. A large kidney unit opened again this week and others are planning action soon. Centres that have remained open, or those who have just reopened, have kindly offered to share any learning from these times. We have contacts from those centres if you should wish to take up the offer.

Living Donation

The KAG specific guidance for re-opening of transplant centres has been updated to include more detail about considerations for donors and recipients who are pending in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme and follow-up for living donors. The latest version can be accessed <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>. Please contact us for further advice if needed.

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) has provided further guidance this week on the consent requirements for living donors and recipients in the context of COVID-19. The guidance reflects the change in circumstances in which living donor transplantation will now proceed and any additional risks that may be associated with Covid-19. It includes information about requirements for previously approved cases that have yet to proceed and for new donors and recipients who have yet to be independently assessed. **Full details from the HTA are attached to this bulletin.**

The HTA has emailed the guidance to living donor coordinators this week and it will be published on the HTA website shortly.

Facilitating Organ Donation

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/18606/daily-numbers-200520.pdf>

Retrieval Teams

No change from the previous bulletin.

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.

RENAL

We are continuing to work with centres who are ready and/or preparing to open to selected renal patients.

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	3	29
Paediatrics	0	16

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.

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 MEdRx 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.