



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 13

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

28th 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

As the situation in Donation and Transplantation continues to progress towards more 'near-normal', a brief update on the picture across the UK.

Kidney Transplant centres opening

Over the last few days, more centres have opened for deceased donor transplantation. At the time of writing, there are 10 out of 23 adult renal transplant centres open (there were only 4 open at the height of the COVID surge).

We know that most other centres have well developed plans to open as well.

Units that stayed open or those who have just returned to accepting offers have often offered to share learning. Of course, there is already an informal network to allow this but if you wish to be put in touch with a colleague who has offered this facility, then please contact us. Lizzie.Abbot-Davies@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Living donation (kidney)

We know that two centres are planning to restart Living donor transplants in the next few days, building on success in deceased donor transplantation. The London centres, on the basis of the Transplant PLC (Pan London Collaborative), are also planning to reopen Living donation in an innovative way in early June. There is much that needs to be put in place to make this successful and I will ask senior colleagues to report on their significant work in upcoming Bulletins.

For ease and a repeat from the previous bulletin the relevant documents for guidance in opening are located as outlined below.

Guidance for the re-opening of transplant centres POL296 can be found [here](#)

KAG guidance for re-opening or expansion of kidney transplant programs and COVID-19 can be found [here](#)

Facilitating Organ Donation

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/18674/daily-numbers-270520.pdf>

It is clear that referral numbers and actual donors are beginning to increase again with two consecutive days this last week where 5 then 4 donors came through the whole process.

Retrieval Teams

NORS teams remain at almost full capacity and continue to cover all donor retrieval activity. We are extremely grateful to all the NORS team members who have continued to support donor retrieval during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note the new section on corneal transplants below*

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 paediatric 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	1	24
Paediatrics	0	16

Lungs	Urgent
Adults	1
Paediatrics	1

1 x Super Urgent Liver Listed (Kings)

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.

Corneal transplantation*

- Orders from now until 31st July have been cancelled, but some tissue is available, and it may well be possible to reinstate cases. Please ring TES customer services to discuss.
- Orders from August onwards will be honoured, **but only if TES customer services receive confirmation that the case will go ahead**
- A new ordering and allocation process will be introduced later this year, details to follow
- It would help NHSBT considerably if corneal transplant surgeons could complete our survey at <https://tinyurl.com/ybr4d6kf>
- Up-to-date information on corneal tissue availability can be found at <http://otagupdate.co.uk>

Last week we highlighted a survey by Antonia Cronin and colleagues on **Survey on access to transplantation during COVID-19** –

There was a very good response, if you still want to respond then the survey closes 3/6/20
Find out more from Antonia. antonia.cronin@kcl.ac.uk

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/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.