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](https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/18674/daily-numbers-270520.pdf)

**KAG guidance for re-opening or expansion of kidney transplant programs and COVID-19** can be found [here](https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/18674/daily-numbers-270520.pdf)

**Facilitating Organ Donation**

Up to date donor and transplant numbers per organ group can be found using the link below [here](https://nhsbtdbe.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Super-Urgent</th>
<th>Urgent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hearts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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](https://tinyurl.com/ybr4d6kf)
- Up-to-date information on corneal tissue availability can be found at [http://otagupdate.co.uk](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**


Reference on organ transplantation


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


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](http://www.tts.org/covid-19)
- Transplantation Global Transplantation COVID Report
  [www.tts.org/tjcovid19](http://www.tts.org/tjcovid19)

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.