

## **Staged reactivation of kidney transplant programme at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust**

In April we wrote to you explaining that due to the Covid-19 pandemic we had suspended kidney transplantation at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. In line with other kidney transplant centres, we are now planning to gradually lift this suspension. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is following national guidance from NHS England and NHS Blood and Transplant for safe re-opening of transplant programs. It will re-open only when the team of transplant surgeons, kidney doctors, transplant coordinators and transplant nurses are satisfied it is safe to do so.

Although the peak of the initial Covid-19 pandemic has passed, the NHS continues to care for patients acquiring the infection, and Covid-19 is likely to affect the population in the UK until a vaccine is available. We are learning new information about the Covid-19 virus every day, but research suggests that some people, including those with underlying health conditions, have a high risk of bad outcomes if they get Covid-19.

As a first step we will reactivate people who are at the lowest risk of developing problems after transplant. These people are predicted to need very short stays in hospital and are less likely to need to come back into hospital after a transplant. For these people we think the benefits of transplantation currently outweigh the risks. We will closely monitor the situation, and if things progress well we will open up the programme to everyone.

**You are in our higher risk group and so we think the risks of transplantation for you at this stage of the Covid-19 pandemic outweigh the potential benefits.** As the pandemic settles and new medical knowledge develops regarding transplant safety we will review our position. We look forward to contacting you in the near future to reactivate you on the transplant waiting list. Please be assured that we are constantly reviewing the situation and we are committed to achieving timely and safe transplantation for all our patients.

If you would like to speak to the transplant team about this you can call 0113 206 4930 between 8am and 4pm. You can also email the Transplant Co-Ordinators Team at:

[leedsth-tr.renaltransplant@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.renaltransplant@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully,

The Renal and Transplant Team at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust