



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 17

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

8th July 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 we reach the 17th Bulletin of this type, I would just wish to send grateful thanks to all the teams in Donation and Transplantation.

With joint working, the transplant activity figures are close to normal, although the full recovery of DCD donation has still got some recovery to go – understandable as units reopen or expand programmes.

Heart, Lung and Liver transplant numbers are largely back to normal levels and most Kidney units are now open. Just today I was told of one London kidney centre opening and two more will have opened again by 20th July.

But we are not complacent.

This week has seen a complex planning project for the predicted next Covid-19 surge. I am grateful to the wider clinical team who have been working hard on this – we anticipate a document on this subject in the middle of next week.

We have edited down this bulletin compared with the previous few that were growing, sometimes with repetition. We know that you want to see the distilled headlines and will try our best to keep providing just that.

Living Donation

The Kidney Advisory Group recommendations, endorsed by the NHSBT Clinical Team and Commissioners across the UK, to support centres to restart and expand living donor kidney transplantation programmes was sent to Clinical Directors of kidney transplant centres yesterday, copied to the UK LKD Network. The documents can be accessed [here](#). The aim is to support colleagues in their continued efforts to restore living donor kidney transplantation activity 'post COVID' and to build some resilience into the UK wide programme so that centres are not forced to close living donor kidney transplantation in the event of a future outbreak or similar crisis.

Early indications from a market research survey of living donors suggest a high level of trust in the NHS and clinical teams to keep donors and recipients safe and overwhelming support for programmes to restart. The survey closes this week and a more detailed analysis will be made available for the next bulletin.

Please remember to notify us at clinicalgovernance.odt@nhsbt.nhs.uk when living donor kidney transplant programmes restart so that we can keep the website updated with the latest information.

Please contact Rommel at rommel.ravanan@nbt.nhs.uk and Lisa at lisa.burnapp@nhsbt.nhs.uk for further advice and support as required.

Transplant centres opening

The majority of kidney units are now open for deceased donor transplant. A full list of units now open can be found [here](#). At the time of writing 5 units remain closed to deceased donor kidney transplant and 8 units have opened to living kidney donation.

All other transplant centres liver, heart, lung, multi-visceral transplant centres are now open to transplantation. A few Islet and pancreas centres remain closed but are expected to re-open shortly.

Facilitating Organ Donation

We are pleased to report a continued increase in donor and transplant activity. 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/19075/daily-numbers-070720.pdf>

Retrieval Teams

No change from previous bulletin

Organ Allocation and Offering

The only changes to note this week is changes to liver allocation.

As many of you will know we have had a change to the liver offering in place since the start of April and we have now agreed with the liver centre directors to revert to the National Liver Offering Scheme (NLOS). We are hoping to progress this on Thursday 9th July 2020. The plan is that any patient that you wish to consider for transplantation should be re-activated on the 9th July after 10:00, during the re-activation NO matching runs will be run to prevent some patients being either advantaged or disadvantaged during the switch period. We will need to have a go no go decision on the day in relation to donor activity – therefore no patients should be re-activated until there is formal notification on the day of change. We will work closely with all recipient centres to support the teams during this change over period, If there are any questions please contact Julie Whitney – Julie.whitney@nhsbt.nhs.uk

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

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 available [here](#)

NICE guidance on:

COVID 19 rapid guideline: renal transplantation [here](#)

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.