



Blood and Transplant

COVID-19 Bulletin Number 19

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

31st July 2020

We are continuing weekly calls with all UK commissioners and the clinical team in the context of the pandemic.

Important - Second Surge Planning Document now available

As we mentioned in previous bulletins our attention has turned to second surge planning in collaboration with the clinical team and UK commissioners.

I am pleased to say that our document on COVID -19 Second Surge Planning is now complete and has been agreed by transplant commissioners across all 4 countries. I am very grateful to the clinical team for the work that went into this document.

For the most up-to date version please go to

<https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/19370/pol301.pdf>

We plan (in the Clinical Team) to review this document regularly in order to respond to events over the next weeks

Living Donation

Thank you to colleagues in kidney transplant centres for submitting your individual plans for restoring living donor kidney transplantation and contingencies in the event of a future outbreak of COVID-19.

We have seen more centres restart living donation in the past week and the information that you have provided has already informed discussions within the kidney advisory group about how we progress with the kidney sharing scheme. We aim to confirm the timeframe for restarting this in the next week.

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.

Rommel at rommel.ravanan@nbt.nhs.uk and Lisa at lisa.burnapp@nhsbt.nhs.uk are happy to be contacted for further advice and support as required.

Nice Guidance

NICE Guideline: COVID-19 rapid guideline: arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services will be useful

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng179>

Advice to patients to note is:

- Follow comprehensive social-distancing and hand-hygiene measures for 14 days before admission (see government advice on social distancing)
- Have a test for SARS-CoV-2 from 3 days before admission, and ensure the results are available beforehand
- Self-isolate from the day of the test until admission

Transplant centres opening

One unit remains closed to kidney transplantation. All other units are now open for deceased donor transplant. A full list of units now open can be found [here](#). We are pleased to say that at the time of writing 16 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 continue to see a steady increase in donor and transplant activity. We have also removed any restrictions on donor criteria, for both DBD and DCD donors - we are back to pre-COVID-19 settings for all donor referrals. 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/19259/daily-numbers-230720.pdf> -

Organ Allocation and Offering

No changes this week.

Publications/Useful Links

Repeat from previous bulletin

Please see the link below to a report published by the Academy of Medical Sciences at the request of Prof Sir Patrick Vallance.

The report is fundamentally about the potential for winter pressures coinciding with a second wave of coronavirus and concentrates on some basic public health measures.

<https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/51353957>

All previous publication links can be found on earlier bulletins.

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>