

Commonwealth 'Tribute to Life' Organ Donation and Transplantation MOU

Ambition

In time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, we will have gained support from other Commonwealth nations to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on organ donation and transplantation which will create an agreed framework for:

Commonwealth nations to share knowledge and expertise for the purpose of increasing organ and tissue transplantation to the benefit of all Commonwealth citizens.

This voluntary MOU will NOT be for the purpose of any organ sharing, create any financial obligations and is not intended to be a legally binding contract.

Background

Organ failure and the need for transplantation remains high in all countries. Unmet need can lead to the death of those on the transplant waiting list or commercially driven transplantation to the detriment of both organ donors and recipients. Although international resolutions and declarations have called upon each country to strive towards self-sufficiency in organ donation and transplantation, to date no country has achieved this ambition.

NHS Blood and Transplant already has successful MOU's with the MOHAN Foundation in India and the Republic of Uganda. The proposed Commonwealth MOU is modelled on these agreements.

The Benefits to Commonwealth Nations

- Gaining of knowledge through the sharing of guidelines, protocols, teaching materials, mentorship and training via self-funded sabbaticals.
- Supporting progress in those countries where organ transplantation exists to higher levels, but where there is continued unmet need in more ethnically diverse communities.
- Exploring the potential for commencing transplantation in countries where it does not exist.
- Encouraging Commonwealth citizens to participate in activities related to their country of historical origin, and also share with them success stories from their country of origin.
- Protecting vulnerable Commonwealth citizens against illegal and unethical transplantation.
- Saving and transforming the lives of thousands of patients.

Progress to Date

- Support from NHSBT, project team headed by Dr Dale Gardiner, National Clinical Lead for Organ Donation. [Webpage](#).
- Support from Mr John Crabtree OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands and the Chair of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee.
- Establishment of a Commonwealth Tribute to Life Board Chaired by Dr Satya Sharma MBE, Deputy Lieutenant West Midlands.
- Establishment of a Tribute to Life UK Advisory Panel, Chaired by Prof. Baroness Finlay of Llandaff.
- Positive engagement from Donate Life Australia, Canadian Blood Service, MOHAN Foundation India, Commonwealth Medical Association and representatives from Barbados, Ghana, Nigeria, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Working toward contacting Health Ministers in all Commonwealth nations to nominate a representative to join a planned Tribute to Life International Advisory Panel.