

October 2020 • Issue 11

UK LKD Network Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

We know that the last 6 months have been hugely challenging with many of you involved in the living kidney donor service seconded to the COVID frontline.

Given the year everyone has had, we had hoped to hold a face to face Network meeting in March next year, but it was proving logistically impossible, so we are going virtual (see 'save the dates' further below).

We would love to create a montage of your stories for the annual event to recognise and celebrate all that you have done. Please send a photo, video clip and/or sentence about what you did to Trudy Monday at trudy.monday@nhsbt.nhs.uk by **Monday 11th January 2021**.

We will share the montage with you at the Network event in March 2021 and it will be made available to the Network for training events via the website and Newsletter. Before you send us your contributions, please make sure that you have obtained the correct permissions from everyone involved and that they have agreed for content to be shared.

Now that living donor programmes have restarted, we also want to hear about some of the innovative ways you have tackled the challenges of providing the service and any problems that you have encountered so that we can plan the Network meeting programme in March around content that is most relevant to you. Please email your question/idea and contact details back to trudy.monday@nhsbt.nhs.uk to form the basis of some of our discussions at the Network meeting and training events in 2021. Please email any immediate thoughts about items you would like included in the Network programme to trudy.monday@nhsbt.nhs.uk by **22nd October**.

What happened to kidney transplantation during COVID-19?

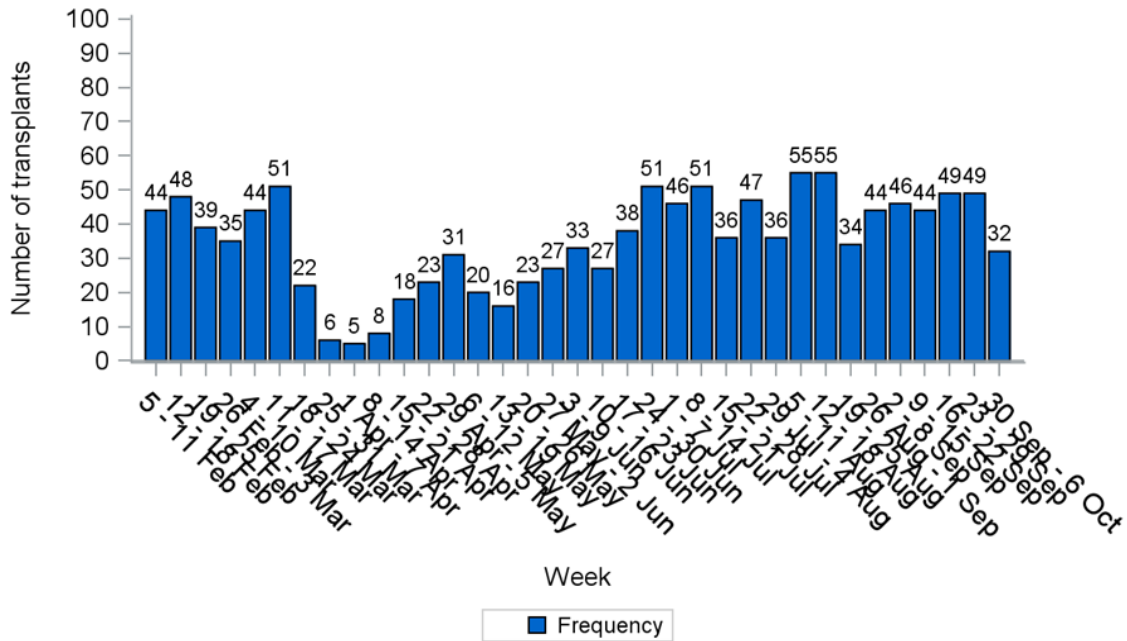
Update from Matthew Robb, Principal Statistician, NHSBT

Between 14th March and 10th April, 20 of the adult kidney transplant centres closed following the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Three centres remained open between 10th April and 14th April.

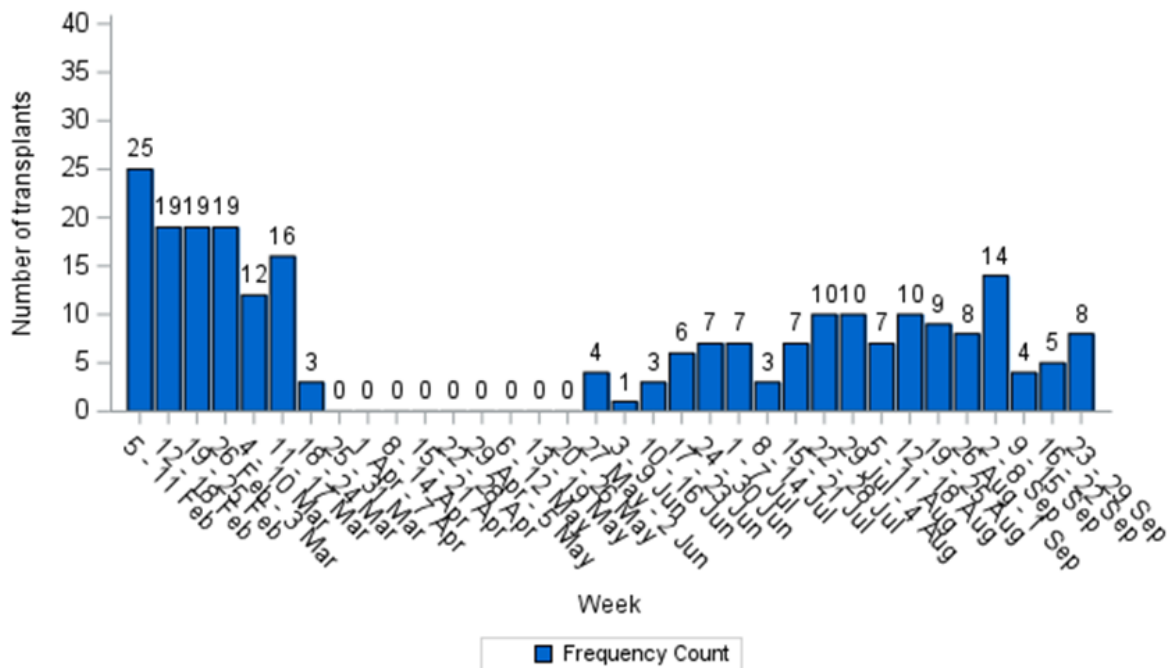
In response to the centre closures, the UK kidney offering scheme was amended from 30th March so that offers to Tier B patients would be centre choice. Named patient-based offering has remained in Tier A. All living donor transplants ceased from late March, and the April and July matching runs for the UKLKSS did not go ahead. NHSBT along with the Kidney Advisory Group has worked closely with centres to help facilitate the reopening of centres for both living and deceased donor transplantation.

All kidney transplant centres have now reopened and the offering scheme returned to patient-based offering in both Tier A and Tier B on 16th June. Deceased donor transplant activity has returned to the level in February. Living donor activity has started to increase from mid-May with the October UKLKSS planned to go ahead. However, living donor activity has not yet returned to previous levels.

Number of deceased donor kidney transplants performed in the UK, 5 February 2020 to 6 October 2020



Number of living donor kidney transplants performed in the UK, 5 February 2020 to 29 September 2020



What should I tell living donors about going into hospital?

There have been a number of queries related to guidance about living donors and social isolation before and after donation. Latest NHSBT/BTS guidance <https://bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NHSBT-BTS-Consent-guidance-COVID-19-Version-4-updated-13th-August-FINAL.pdf> and NICE guidance <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng178/chapter/3-Transplant-donors#living-donors> advocate **individual discussion and risk assessment accompanied by close adherence to social distancing and hand hygiene.**

The critical period is 14 days prior to donation and a similar period following discharge from hospital. Prior to donation, consideration needs to be given to the impact of late cancellation if a living donor is unable to proceed at a late stage. For example, if the donor is participating in a kidney sharing scheme exchange the implications of cancellation or postponement may be greater, simply because more people and centres are involved.

With an upturn in community prevalence, a return to more normal work and lifestyle activities and the advent of Autumn/Winter, the risk of infection is obviously increased. These factors, together with regional variation in COVID-19, will influence how individual transplant centres implement policies. This can cause confusion, so it is critical that local and regional policies are fully explained and that donors understand the need for tailored risk assessment and adherence to latest guidance.

DEcisions About Living Kidney Donation (DEAL KD) Research Project

Researchers at St James' University Hospital in Leeds and St Luke's Hospital in Bradford are conducting a study to ask services about the types of information they provide to their patients about living kidney donation. This work is conducted as part of the DEcisions About Living Kidney Donation (DEAL KD) research project funded by Kidney Research Yorkshire (ref 19-127). This project will develop a decision aid to help improve conversations around living kidney donation with a focus on BAME communities.

We invite you to complete a short 4-page online questionnaire about how people are currently supported by your kidney service when deciding about living kidney donation. The questionnaire is accessible via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/eiVkiolrJudWv1749>

If you have any questions or require any further details about the study please contact:

anna@winterbottom.co.uk

COVID-19 Resources

Throughout the pandemic, NHSBT, the BTS and RA have provided 'free access' information for clinicians, transplant patients and commissioners, and issued regular bulletins to keep everyone updated. There are also some excellent patient resources provided by the charities and patient organisations. Latest resources and guidance relevant to clinical practice in the COVID era can be accessed via the following links:

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

Latest LDKT donor-recipient factsheets: <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/become-a-living-donor/>
(Kidney concertina)

BTS: <https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/>

RA: <https://renal.org/covid-19/>

Kidney Care UK: <https://www.kidneycareuk.org/news-and-campaigns/coronavirus-advice/>

National Kidney Federation: <https://www.kidney.org.uk/news/coronavirus-latest-information-and-advice>

Other Network Resources

Click on the link below for a list of up to date resources and how to access them:

<https://nhsbtbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/19241/ldkt-useful-resources-v5-may-2019.pdf>

‘Save the Dates’:

UK LKD Network Meeting - 24th March 2021

We are going virtual with the UK LKD Network Meeting. We are still in the planning stages but hope to record some of the content to make it available for regional and local training events throughout 2021. Your contributions will be invaluable to this event so please submit your thoughts and ideas. (see introduction).

British Transplantation Society (BTS)

Winter Ethics Symposium: Health Inequalities and Transplantation - 3rd December 2020, 16:00-19:00

<https://bts.org.uk/events-meetings/upcoming-bts-events/>

BTS/NHSBT Joint Congress ‘Live’ - 24th-25th February 2021

<https://bts.org.uk/events-meetings/>

Please contact us if we can help or support you in anyway.

Lisa Burnapp- Clinical Lead Living Donation
Caroline Wroe- Chair of the UK LKD Network
Katie Vinen- Renal Association Representative