COVID-19 Bulletin Number 29

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

5th March 2021
Message from Professor Derek Manas

Dear Colleague,

As we enter March, here is another update. February was another challenging month, but we have continued to support our patients, donors, and their families up and down the country.

On behalf of Professor Forsythe and I we want to thank each one of you for your continued hard work and dedication. The vaccine rollout has continued to increase and hopefully it will not be long before we are out of lockdown and life can begin to return to normal.

Derek Manas

COVID-19 activity summary

The Clinical Team reviewed the latest COVID-19 activity data. There has been an increase in both deceased donors and transplants. The team will continue to look at the data and ensure we share the most up to date guidance is shared to ensure we can continue to facilitate donation and transplantation wherever possible.

Living Donation

In consultation with the Kidney Advisory Group and clinical colleagues, it has been agreed that the April matching run of the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme will proceed to plan. Centres have been notified.

Surgical Prioritisation for Transplantation

In consultation with the British Transplantation Society (BTS) and endorsed by the NHSBT Clinical Team, the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations (FSSA) has revised its 'clinical guide to surgical prioritisation during the coronavirus pandemic' in the context of transplantation. These important updates include:

- Clarity about the language and terminology related to types of transplantation
- Re-prioritisation of living donor transplantation
- Emphasis on multi-disciplinary team directed decision-making in all categories
• Reference to NHSBT guidance throughout

The revised FSSA guidance was published on 26th February 2021. More information and updated OTDT-BTS accompanying guidance can be found here [https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/re-opening-of-transplant-programmes/](https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/re-opening-of-transplant-programmes/)

**Human Tissue (Authorisation)(Scotland) Act 2019**

The Scottish legislation on Organ Donation changes on the 26th March 2021. The attached documents provide some more information on the law change, the E Learning tool, and the key responsibilities for retrieval surgery.

**NHSBT and British Transplantation Society Joint Congress 2021**

The joint congress took place over two days last week. The 2021 congress was a little different to previous years – being a virtual format – nevertheless it was a huge success. Over the course of the event there were talks and discussions focusing on all areas of donation and transplantation. We also took some time to celebrate the successes of colleagues with the both the Excellence Awards in Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation and the BTS Awards. We would like to congratulate all involved in making it such a great success, especially Lisa Burnapp (President of the BTS) and Dale Gardiner (National Clinical lead for organ donation).