

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT**  
**PANCREAS ADVISORY GROUP**  
**PANCREAS FAST TRACK SCHEME**

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Pancreas Fast Track Offering Scheme (FTS) was first introduced on 1 December 2010 with the National Pancreas Allocation Scheme and was initiated once the pancreas had been removed from the donor in order to place the donated organ as a matter of urgency. It was further agreed at the Advisory Group meeting in October 2015 that a revised fast track offering scheme would be introduced from 14 December 2015, which would be initiated either if the pancreas had been declined by 4 centres (3 centres for a donor after circulatory death) for donor or organ reasons or once the pancreas had been removed from the donor.
2. Following discussion of the large volume of fast track pancreas offers and low transplantation rate, an in-depth analysis was presented at the Advisory Group meeting in November 2018. It was subsequently agreed not to fast track a pancreas if the cold ischaemic time (CIT) was greater than 8 hours at time of potential fast track. This rule took effect from 1 April 2019. No changes were made to the rules triggering fast track offers.
3. A further change was agreed at PAG in April 2020, to not fast track a pancreas to whole pancreas centres if the CIT was greater than 4 hours. This change was implemented on 1 October 2020.

**INTRODUCTION**

4. This paper audits activity in the 17 months since the introduction of the 8 hour CIT cut-off rule. Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on both pancreas donors after brain death (DBD) and after circulatory death (DCD), aged under 66 years from 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2020. Data for 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 are also presented for comparison.

**RESULTS**

5. **Table 1** shows the number of pancreas donors whose organs were offered through the fast track scheme in the 17-month time period compared with 2018/19. Of the 514 pancreas donors, 42% were offered through the scheme compared with 43% in 2018/19. For DBD, the proportion of donors fast tracked in the 17-month period was 38%, a decrease from 44% in 2018/19. For DCD, the proportion of donors fast tracked has increased from 39% in 2018/19 to 51%.
6. However, between April and August 2020 due to COVID-19, the pancreas offering scheme was temporarily changed to offer organs to Tier A patients and then fast tracked to all open centres, so **Table 1** also shows the 17-month time period split into 2019/20 financial year and April to August 2020. In 2019/20, 40% of 451 donors were fast tracked and between April and August 2020 this proportion increased to 56% of 63 donors.
7. Over the 17-month period, of the 214 pancreas donors offered through the scheme, 81 (38%) were subsequently accepted for transplantation and 40 (19%) were transplanted. Of the 40 transplanted, 32 were transplanted as whole organs and eight as islets.

8. Since November 2017, ODT Hub Operations staff have been recording the trigger for the fast track offer. In the 17-month period, the main trigger specified for fast tracking 214 donors was “organ declined after knife to skin (KTS)” in 73 (34%) cases. The triggers “organ deemed unusable” and “not accepted before KTS” were specified in 32 (15%) cases each. In 26 (12%) cases the trigger was “Offering process deviation due to COVID-19”. This was the main reason for the 35 donors being offered via the fast track scheme in the April to August 2020 period.
9. Follow-up information is available for some of those organs transplanted following fast track offer in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 period. Of the 13 whole pancreas transplants in 2018/19, two were functioning at 3-months, 10 were functioning at a year post-transplant and one was functioning at two years post-transplant. Of the eight islet transplants in 2018/19, six were routine and two were a priority top-up graft and all are still functioning. For those 18 organs fast tracked in 2019/20 and transplanted as whole pancreas, ten were functioning at 3-months and follow-up is due for the remaining transplants. Of the seven islet transplants, five were routine and two were a priority top-up graft. Two are known to be functioning at 6-months and follow-up is due for the remaining transplants.

**ACTION**

10. Monitoring of the fast track scheme and the further changes introduced on 1 October 2020 will continue.

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<b>Table 1 Outcome of pancreases offered through the fast track scheme for 2018/19 and 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2020</b>									
<b>Year/ time period</b>	<b>Donor type</b>	<b>Number of pancreas donors</b>	<b>Number offered through FTS (% of donors)</b>	<b>Number accepted for transplantation through FTS</b>			<b>Number transplanted through FTS</b>		<b>Total (% of offered)</b>
				<b>Whole</b>	<b>Islet</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Whole</b>	<b>Islet</b>	
2018/19	DBD	362	158 (44%)	27	16	<b>43</b>	10	7	<b>17 (11%)</b>
	DCD	104	41 (39%)	9	2	<b>11</b>	3	1	<b>4 (10%)</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>199 (43%)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21 (11%)</b>
17-months	DBD	382	147 (38%)	38	17	<b>55</b>	18	7	<b>25 (17%)</b>
	DCD	132	67 (51%)	24	2	26	14	1	<b>15 (22%)</b>
17-months	<b>Total</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>214 (42%)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40 (19%)</b>
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2019/20	DBD	333	121 (36%)	21	13	<b>34</b>	10	6	<b>16 (13%)</b>
	DCD	118	58 (49%)	16	2	<b>18</b>	8	1	<b>9 (16%)</b>
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>179 (40%)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25 (14%)</b>
Apr-Aug 2020	DBD	49	26 (53%)	17	4	<b>21</b>	8	1	<b>9 (35%)</b>
	DCD	14	9 (64%)	8	0	<b>8</b>	6	0	<b>6 (67%)</b>
<b>Apr-Aug 2020</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>35 (56%)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15 (43%)</b>