

**Retrieval Advisory Group,
30th March 2021**

Increasing the Number of Organs Available for Research (INOAR)

1. Status – Public

2. Executive Summary

2.1 In 2017 NHSBT's Research Innovation and Novel Technologies Advisory Group (RINTAG), formed a sub-group to increase the number of organs available for research. This sub group was named INOAR.

2.2 The INOAR project encountered software/ electronic, operational challenges and a global pandemic therefore the initial go live date of November 2018 was not achievable.

2.3 On the 13th January, 2021 the INOAR project 'went live'. SNODs in QUOD-licensed hospitals in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and all hospitals in Scotland now discuss the opportunity with donor families to consent or provide authorisation to the removal and storage of the Heart, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for research.

2.4 The INOAR project will be evaluated at 3 months. A report will be provided to RINTAG 25th May, 2021 including any recommendations to amend the INOAR process if required.

3. Action Requested

3.1 Note the data pertaining to INOAR organs offered, accepted and removed to date.

4. Background

4.1 Utilising the Liverpool Research HTA Licence to remove organs for research has increased the number of organs available for research.

4.2 In addition, the following benefits are achieved:

- Reduction in the complexities of the consent process for families
- Reduction in the complexities of the consent process for SNODS
- A more consistent and transparent research allocation system
- Reduction in the complexities for researchers by reducing the requirement for specific HTA licences

4.3 INOAR is a change in practice across the entire donation, offering, allocation and retrieval pathway, resulting in changes for Organ Donation Services Teams, Hub Operations, the National Organ Retrieval Service, Information Services, and the Donor Records Department.

5. Update

5.1 Consent

5.1.2 Consent for the removal of Hearts, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for Research in QUOD Hospitals (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) and Scotland - 13th January – 17th March 2021.

Consented Solid Organ Donors in QUOD Hospitals (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) & Scotland)	108
Consent for the removal of Hearts, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for Research	77
No Consent for the removal of Hearts, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for Research	24
Non approach for the removal of Heart, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for Research.	7

5.1.3 INOAR organs offered, accepted and removed 13th January – 17th March 2021.

INOAR Organs	Offered	Accepted	Removed
Hearts	18	2	0
Lungs	16	12	6
Diabetic Pancreases	1	1	1
Total	35	14	7

5.2 Hearts

5.2.1 We are aware that not all RINTAG approved researchers are able to accept hearts for research that are removed and packaged in saline. Ongoing discussions with relevant colleagues will inform any recommendations to RINTAG.

5.2.2 Additional compounding factors for acceptance by the heart studies are:

- One study is currently unable to accept any hearts through INOAR due to a late discovery that their Research Ethics Committee (REC) approval needed to be amended.
- Another study involves the team bringing a perfusion machine to the retrieval and is therefore limited by location and travel time to the donor hospital and on occasions retrieval personnel.

5.3 Lungs

5.3.1 Lungs may only be removed for research when there is a Cardiothoracic NORS team in attendance. Hence some disparity between lungs accepted and removed.

5.4 Diabetic Pancreas

5.4.1 There were 4 diabetic donors, all of which were consented for INOAR. 3 of these did not proceed to theatre as no organs were placed for transplant and donation was stood down.

6. Next Steps

A report will be provided to RINTAG 25th May, 2021 including any recommendations to amend the INOAR process if required.

Author

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