

Policy

Mass suspension or activation (see definitions below) of potential transplant recipients allows transplant units to open and close quickly if they are unable to receive offers for a prolonged period of time. Mass activation or suspension carried out by a script can be performed without a risk assessment. For cardiothoracic and intestinal transplant units mass suspension and activation can only be carried out manually. Mass activation or suspension performed manually will only be carried out after case-by-case consideration and appropriate risk assessment.

Objective

To ensure that the mass suspension or activation of potential transplant recipients is conducted in a safe and controlled manner.

Changes in this version

New

Roles

- **Transplant Unit Clinical Lead** – contact ODT Hub Information Services (IS) by email requesting a mass activation or suspension. Provide nominated contacts to support the activity.
- **S&CS** – to provide lists of patients where required and to carry out verification steps as defined in SOP5876
- **Data Platforms** – to execute script to mass activate or suspend patients.
- **ODT Hub IS coordinator** – to coordinate activation or suspension activity and ensure that sufficient resource is available to complete planned activity.
- **ODT Hub IS registration team member** – to process changes carried out by the script.

Process Description

Restrictions to Mass Activations or Suspensions

Only kidney and liver recipients can be suspended or activated en-masse using a script. These activations can be carried out without risk assessment.

Mass activations or suspensions of patients waiting for any other organ may be carried out manually by ODT Hub Information Services (IS). This activity will be carried out on a case-by-case basis subject to a risk assessment and only in cases where the registering transplant unit cannot complete the activity themselves.

Irrespective of method mass activation or suspension must only be carried out once the transplant unit has developed and enacted a communications plan for patients who will be suspended.

Options for Mass Activation or Suspension

1. Transplant units have two options for mass suspensions:
 - a. All active and temporarily suspended patients on their list are suspended until further notice.
 - b. A subset of active patients, supplied by the unit, are suspended whilst the remainder of the list remains active. This can be useful when transplant units wish to support a very low level of activity for their most critical patients. Patients who are temporarily suspended must be either activated or suspended until further notice under this option.
2. Transplant units have three options for mass activations:
 - a. All patients suspended until further notice are activated. This option is not recommended as patients who are suspended long-term will be activated.

- b. All patients previously suspended as part of a mass activation are activated. Transplant units are responsible for setting patients to a temporary suspension if required.
- c. A subset of suspended patients, supplied by the unit, are activated whilst the remainder of the list remains suspended. This can be useful to support phased re-opening.

Transplant units using 1b or 2c must ensure that they have the resource available to provide a list of patients for activation or suspension in a timely fashion.

Requesting a Mass Activation or Suspension

Transplant units must provide at least 1 whole working days' notice of the need to carry out a mass activation or suspension. Transplant units wishing to use options 1b or 2c must provide two whole working days' notice to allow for the safe preparation of lists of patients for activation or suspension. Fulfilment of a request is subject to the availability of the required administrative and IT resource to carry out the action.

Requests for mass suspension must be made by email by a senior clinical member of the transplant unit to ODTRegistrationTeamManagers@nhsbt.nhs.uk or Tdatainputteam@nhsbt.nhs.uk. The request should make clear the proposed date for the action and the option they would prefer to use as described above. Requests should also include evidence that a communications plan has been created and carried out, informing patients who will be suspended or activated.

The request should also nominate a contact at the transplant unit for the proposed day of the activation or suspension and, where requesting option 1b or 2c, an appropriate resource to provide a list of patients for activation or suspension.

Upon receipt of a request ODT Hub IS will investigate the availability of the required resource to carry out the activation or suspension. Where appropriate resource is available and there are no other operational impediments to carrying out the action, requests will be approved. As a rule of thumb only two mass activations or suspensions can be completed on any one working day. Where requests cannot be met on the requested date ODT Hub IS will contact the requestor with alternative dates.

Preparing lists of patients for activation or suspension

Where option 1a or 2b is being used, units are required to provide a list of patients that require activation or suspension. To support this Statistics and Clinical Studies (S&CS) will provide a list of all patients to the nominated contact at the transplant unit. For each patient on the list the transplant unit contact must provide the required status following the mass activation or suspension; either ACTIVE or SUSPENDED.

Completed lists must be returned promptly to the S&CS colleague who provided the list. Lists must be returned at least 1 whole working day before the activation or suspension date.

Carrying out mass activation or suspension

The following NHSBT resources are required to carry out a mass activation or suspension by script:

Role Name	Role Description	Number Required
Coordinator	Responsible for managing the process end to end, including ensuring sufficient resource is available and ensuring all steps are completed as per SOP5876. Generally, this person will be a senior member of the ODT Hub IS Registration Team.	1
Statistician	Responsible for providing lists of patients where required and for	1

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	completing verification steps of the mass activation or suspension process.	
Data Platforms Engineer	Responsible for executing the script and participating in verification steps.	1
Registration Team Member	Responsible for processing registrations in NTN once the script has been completed.	2

Mass activations or suspensions carried out manually will be resourced on a case-by-case basis based on the completed risk assessment.

Definitions

- **Active** – the status of a patient that is able to accept offers at the current time.
- **Suspended** – the status of a patient that is not able to accept offers at the current time. When a patient has this status in the NTxD application patients will be excluded from named patient offering schemes and so will not receive offers of organs.
- **Mass suspension** – updating the status of more than 5 patients to suspended in one go.
- **Mass activations** – updating the status of more than 5 patients to active in one go.
- **Temporarily suspended** – suspended for a fixed amount of time before the patient is automatically activated. Also known as a timed suspension
- **Suspended until further notice** – suspended indefinitely until a member of a transplant unit takes a positive action to activate the patient.
- **NTxD** – National Transplant Database application. A computer system for making use of the information stored on the UK Transplant Registry.
- **S&CS** – Statistics and Clinical Studies
- **NTN** – National Transplant Network, a subsystem of NTxD that allows for the processing of multiple registration changes as a batch.

Related Documents / References

- **SOP5876** - Registration Mass Suspension and Activations

Appendices

- None