COVID - 19 Bulletin Number 35

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Directorate

12th August 2021
Message from OTDT Medical Director Professor John Forsythe

Dear Colleagues

A couple of important issues in this Bulletin, but first one more personal.

I will step down from the role of Medical Director of OTDT on 31st December 2021.

When I took up the post, I said I would stay for 5 years – in December it will be nearly 7 years, extended for obvious reasons.

The process of succession has been started and the job will be advertised, in the BMJ, in the near future. Anyone who wishes to ask more on the appointment process should seek to speak with Anthony Clarkson or Gail Miflin.

I am very happy to talk with potential candidates on the details of this privileged role.

Over the next months, I hope to spend a lot of my time on the Organ Utilisation Group that has just begun its work. Thank you for your support in that.

With kind regards,

John Forsythe

COVID – 19 Activity Summary

As you can see from the data below, donation and transplantation activity is returning to pre-pandemic levels. We will continue to monitor this data we progress through the next stage of the pandemic.

Figure 1 Effect CoVID-19 has on Deceased Donation and Transplantation
Number of deceased donors and transplants by week since 1 April 2019
**Clinical Leads for Utilisation Recruitment – Update on all appointments**

Chris Callaghan and Diana Garcia Saez have just completed recruitment for the appointment of 5 Organ Lead CLUs as part of NHSBTs Clinical Leads for Utilisation Scheme. There was a very strong response to the call for interest and a full interview process for each post - involving each of the Chairs of the relevant Advisory Group. The **Organ Lead CLUs** will take on a critical role in driving an increase in national organ utilisation. Congratulations to each of them. They will provide clinical leadership to local CLUs, and support NHSBT colleagues to champion and promote the values of organ utilisation nationally.

The newly appointed **Organ Lead CLUs** are:

Kidney - Nick Inston
Liver – Raj Prasad
Pancreas – David van Dellen
Heart – Aaron Ranasinghe
Lung - Vasiliki Gerovasili

In regard to the **Transplant Unit (Local) CLUs** – all those who were nominated by their centre heads have been successful in securing the posts.

If you have any questions about the CLU scheme please contact organutilisationprogramme@nhsbt.nhs.uk

**Events investigated for possible donor-derived transmission of infections, malignancies, and other cases of interest April 2019 - March 2020**

Please find attached a report which provides detail on:
Events investigated for possible donor-derived transmission of infections, malignancies, and other cases of interest, April 2019 - March 2020.

If you would like further information then please contact olive.mcgowan@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Please distribute within your transplant units for information.

**Living Donation**

Living donor transplantation activity continues to recover post-pandemic and **95 transplants** were identified in the July matching run of the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS). This is equivalent to pre-pandemic matching runs in terms of numbers of donors and recipients included and transplants identified. These transplants will be scheduled over the next few weeks and months.

The living donation digital transformation outline business case was approved by NHSBT Board on 22nd July, which endorsed funding to progress the work in automating the paper-based manual processes that currently underpin the UKLKSS. This is a significant development and marks the first phase in providing a digital platform to support all living donation activity. We will keep you updated with progress in future bulletins.

Any queries or concerns, please contact lisa.burnapp@nhsbt.nhs.uk