

## NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

### National Organ Donation Committee

#### Previous donation conversations - Preliminary data

##### Introduction

1. The new Potential Donor Audit (PDA) implemented on 1 September 2020 introduced additional data collection relating to any previous donation conversations prior to the donation decision conversation. It is hoped that this information may be able to further our understanding of the factors influencing consent/authorisation for organ donation and help inform best practice regarding the organ donation decision conversation. The paper provides an initial exploration of the new data collected to better understand the data available and guide future analysis.

##### Data

2. Data obtained from the PDA on all donation decision conversations with the families of eligible donors who died between 1 September 2020 and 31 December 2021. Data as at 10 January 2022. New data relating to conversations where donation was mentioned prior to the donation decision conversation (pre-mentions) have been included. Data pertaining to up to two previous conversations may be recorded via the new PDA. For the purposes of this preliminary investigation, data presented has been limited to only the first previous conversation recorded.

##### Previous donation conversations

3. Of the 3451 donation decision conversations with eligible donor families, there were a total of 1004 records of at least one previous donation conversation. Previous mentions have been separated into two groups, those initiated by the family and those initiated by a healthcare professional (including SNODs, consultants, nurses etc). There were 423 (42.1%) family initiated pre-mentions and 581 (57.9%) initiated by a healthcare professional.
4. The type (family or healthcare initiated) of previous donation decision conversation is summarised in **Table 1** by patient and hospital demographics to identify where pre-mentions are most likely to occur.
  - The proportion of pre-mentions is similar for DBD (30.8%) and DCD (27.5%) donors but higher for paediatric patients (55.3%) when compared to adult patients (28.1%).
  - Family initiated pre-mention conversations are highest in the white ethnic group (13.3%) and numbers of family initiated pre-mentions are very low in all other ethnic groups. Healthcare initiated pre-mention conversations are equally common across all ethnic groups.
  - Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland and South Central have the highest proportions of pre-mentions.

- Level 4 trust/boards have the highest proportion of pre-mentions (33.6%) although this is most evident in the healthcare initiated conversations. Family initiated pre-mentions appear to be equally common across the 4 levels.

Variable	Level	Type of pre-mention						Total	
		None		Family initiated		Healthcare initiated		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Donor type	DBD	1163	69.2	238	14.2	280	16.7	<b>1681</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	DCD	1284	72.5	185	10.5	301	17.0	<b>1770</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Donor age	Paediatric	55	44.7	29	23.6	39	31.7	<b>123</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Adult	2392	71.9	394	11.8	542	16.3	<b>3328</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Donor ethnicity	White	2076	69.6	396	13.3	510	17.1	<b>2982</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Asian	168	82.4	11	5.4	25	12.3	<b>204</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Black	80	78.4	3	2.9	19	18.6	<b>102</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Chinese/East Asian	19	86.4	1	4.5	2	9.1	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Mixed	18	66.7	2	7.4	7	25.9	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Other	49	70.0	9	12.9	12	17.1	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Unknown	37	84.1	1	2.3	6	13.6	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Team name	Eastern	303	73.0	32	7.7	80	19.3	<b>415</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	London	301	72.0	42	10.0	75	17.9	<b>418</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Midlands	351	76.5	39	8.5	69	15.0	<b>459</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	North West	307	72.7	52	12.3	63	14.9	<b>422</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Northern	135	66.2	40	19.6	29	14.2	<b>204</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Northern Ireland	59	57.3	22	21.4	22	21.4	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Scotland	139	61.8	38	16.9	48	21.3	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	South Central	176	64.5	32	11.7	65	23.8	<b>273</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	South East	206	70.8	41	14.1	44	15.1	<b>291</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	South Wales	91	77.8	11	9.4	15	12.8	<b>117</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	South West	167	73.2	37	16.2	24	10.5	<b>228</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Yorkshire	212	71.6	37	12.5	47	15.9	<b>296</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
Trust/board level	1	1378	71.1	253	13.0	308	15.9	<b>1939</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	2	565	71.8	80	10.2	142	18.0	<b>787</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	3	348	71.0	63	12.9	79	16.1	<b>490</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	4	156	66.4	27	11.5	52	22.1	<b>235</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2447</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>3451</b>	<b>100.0</b>

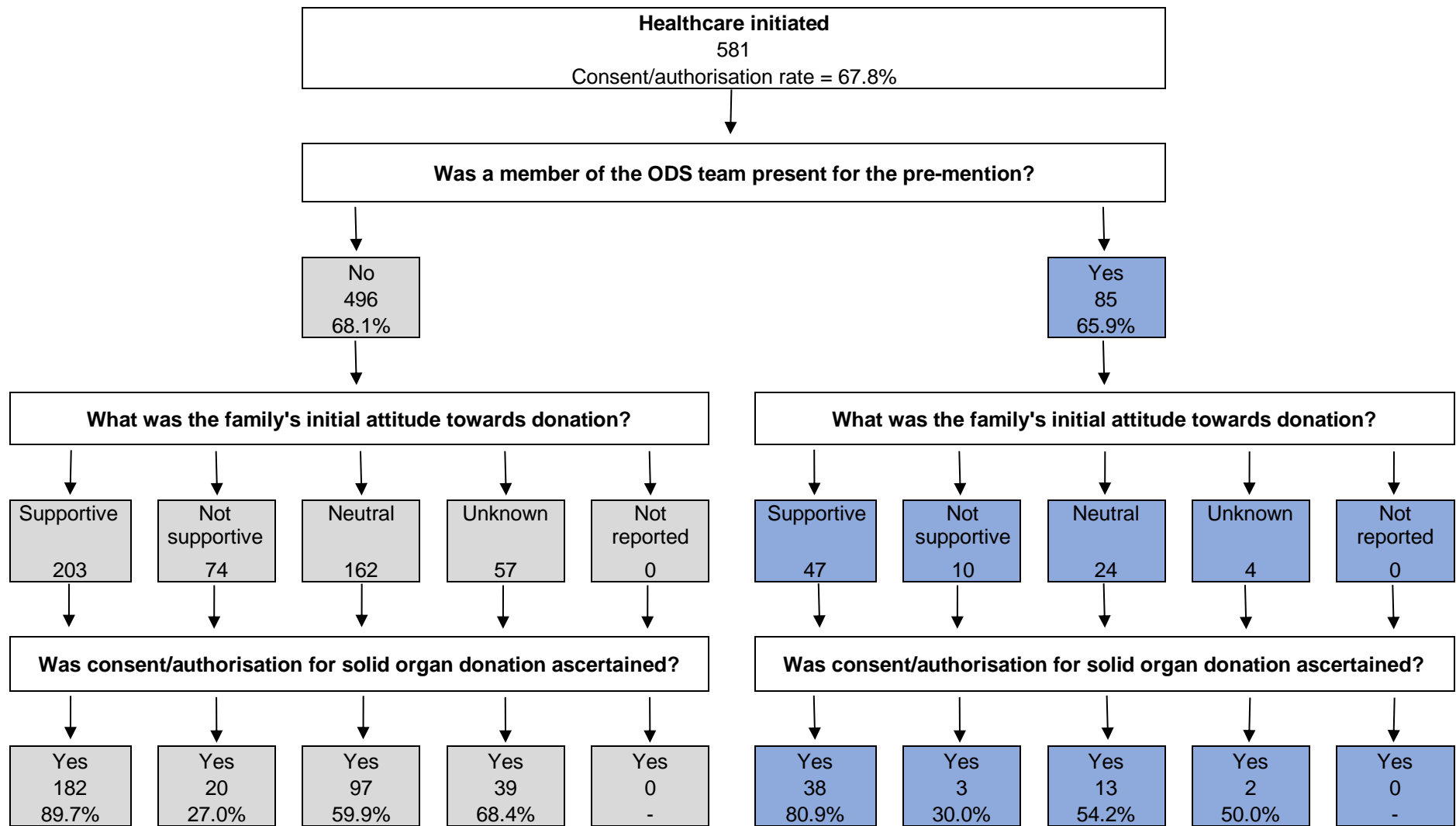
5. A summary of the additional detail (purpose, initial family attitude towards donation and SNOD presence) relating to the previous donation conversation is provided in **Table 2**. Data are presented separated for family initiated and healthcare initiated pre-mention conversations.

- The purpose of the pre-mention conversation is predominately to provide a clinical update (34.7%), to discuss BSDT or WLST (27.3%) or a general conversation (21.7%).
- The majority of families are considered to have a supportive attitude towards donation, 59.6%. 11.4% are considered not to be supportive.
- A SNOD was not present for most of the pre-mention conversations, 83.9% of cases.
- Amongst the healthcare initiated pre-mention conversations, 56.5% were initiated by a consultant, and a total of 51 (8.8%) were initiated by a SNOD.

Variable	Level	Family initiated		Healthcare initiated		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Purpose	General conversation	130	30.7	88	15.1	218	21.7
	Clinical update	168	39.7	180	31.0	348	34.7
	End of life care planning	40	9.5	117	20.1	157	15.6
	Conversation to discuss BSDT or WLST	84	19.9	190	32.7	274	27.3
	Part of an earlier donation decision conversation	0	0.0	4	0.7	4	0.4
	Not reported	1	0.2	2	0.3	3	0.3
Initial family attitude	Supportive of donation	348	82.3	250	43.0	598	59.6
	Not supportive of donation	30	7.1	84	14.5	114	11.4
	Neutral	30	7.1	186	32.0	216	21.5
	Unknown	13	3.1	61	10.5	74	7.4
	Not reported	2	0.5	0	0.0	2	0.2
SNOD present	Yes	76	18.0	85	14.6	161	16.0
	No	347	82.0	495	85.2	842	83.9
	Not reported	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Who initiated	Family	423	100.0	0	0.0	423	42.1
	Consultant	0	0.0	328	56.5	328	32.7
	Other Doctor	0	0.0	98	16.9	98	9.8
	Nurse	0	0.0	74	12.7	74	7.4
	Team Manager	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
	SN-OD	0	0.0	26	4.5	26	2.6
	SN-OD Family Care	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
	Specialist Requester	0	0.0	23	4.0	23	2.3
	Other	0	0.0	29	5.0	29	2.9
	Not reported	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>423</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>100.0</b>

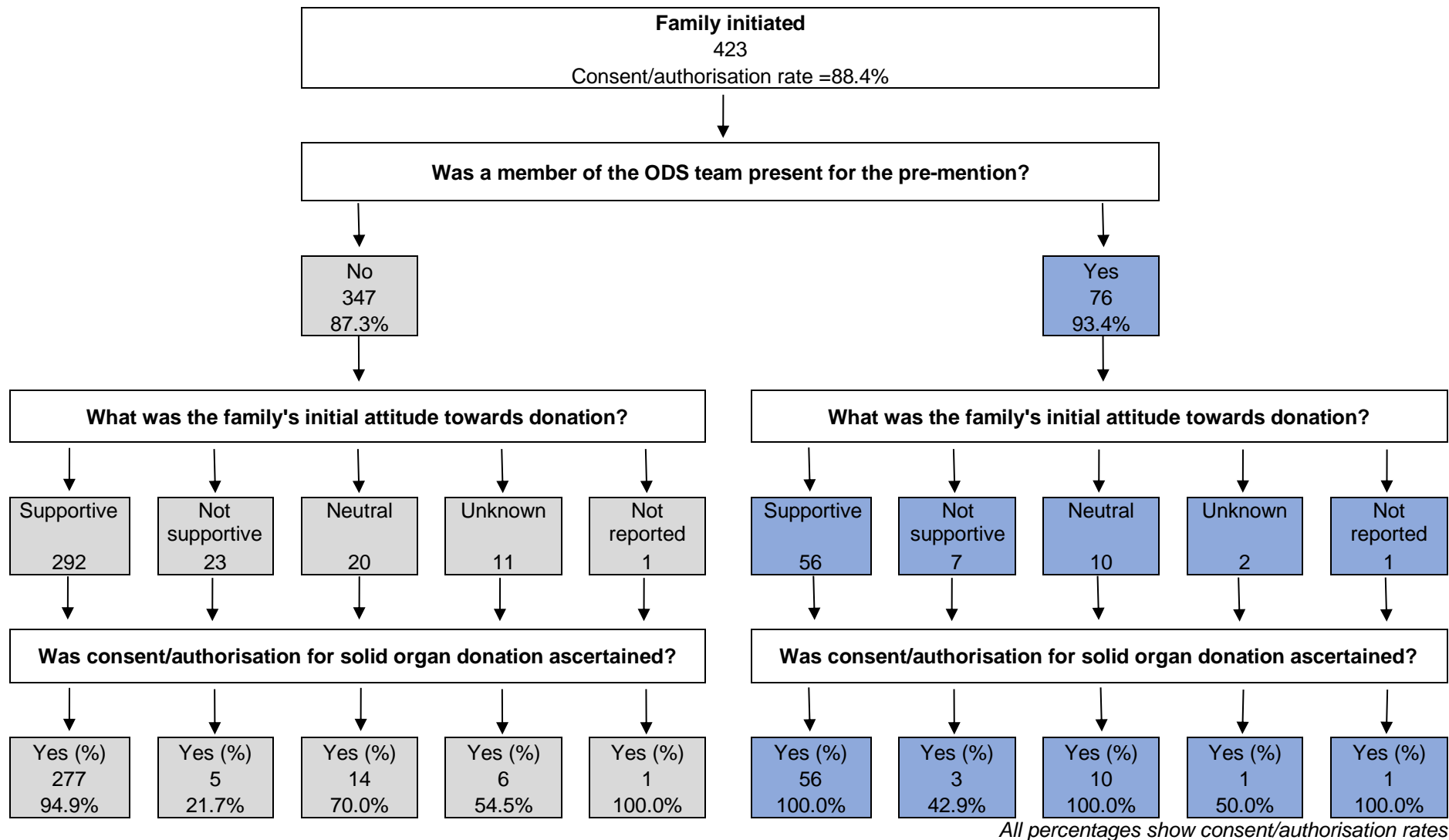
6. **Figures 1 and 2** present consent/authorisation rates, separately, for different pre-mention scenarios for conversations initiated by healthcare professionals and those initiated by the family.
7. Conversations initiated by healthcare professionals, in **Figure 1**, have similar consent/authorisation rates regardless of whether a SNOD was present or not, 65.9% vs 68.1%. As expected, consent/authorisation rates were high where the family's initial attitude was supportive of donation, 89.7% (SNOD not present) and 80.9% (SNOD present). Although the consent/authorisation rates are low, there are families who consent despite an initial attitude which was considered not supportive, 27.0% (SNOD not present) and 30.0% (SNOD present).
8. The overall consent/authorisation rate, where the family initiated the pre-mention conversation was 88.4% (**Figure 2**). Where a SNOD was present for the conversation it was 93.4%. As in conversations initiated by the healthcare professionals, consent/authorisation was very high where the family's initial attitude was supportive of donation, 94.9% (SNOD not present) and 100% (SNOD present), and low where the family's initial attitude was not supportive, 21.7% (SNOD not present) and 42.9% (SNOD present). Although the consent/authorisation rate is higher, where the SNOD is present in the scenario where the family's attitude was not supportive, the numbers are very small.

**Figure 1 Consent/authorisation outcome for healthcare initiated previous donation decision conversations, 1 September 2020 – 31 December 2021**



*All percentages show consent/authorisation rates*

**Figure 2 Consent/authorisation outcome for family initiated previous donation decision conversations, 1 September 2020 – 31 December 2021**



<b>Type of pre-mention and approach</b>	<b>Approached</b>	<b>Consent/authorised</b>	<b>Consent/authorisation rate (%)</b>
Family initiated pre-mention	423	374	88.4
No pre-mention, collaborative	2273	1509	66.4
Pre-mention, collaborative	522	368	70.5
No pre-mention, not collaborative	174	39	22.4
Pre-mention, not collaborative	59	26	44.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3451</b>	<b>2316</b>	<b>67.1</b>

9. Consent/authorisation rates by previous donation decision conversation in combination with donation decision practice are summarised in **Table 3**. A collaborative donation decision conversation is one where the SNOD was present for the decision conversation. Data presented in **Table 3** provides an initial summary of the outcome of different donation decision conversations. Differences in outcomes should be viewed with caution as further analysis is required to better understand the new data available and the complexities of donation decision conversation.

- Where the family initiated the pre-mention conversation, the consent/authorisation rate was high, 88.4%, regardless of whether the donation decision conversation was collaborative.
- The majority of donation decision conversations were collaborative, with no previous donation conversation recorded and a consent/authorisation rate of 66.4%. Where there was also a healthcare initiated pre-mention, the consent/authorisation rate was 70.5%.
- Consent/authorisation rates were low in the not collaborative donation decision conversations, regardless of whether there was a healthcare initiated pre-mention (44.1%) or not (22.4%).

## Summary

10. Pre-mention conversations commonly occur in the paediatric donation process, 55.3% of cases.
11. Where previous donation conversations occur, 59.6% of families are considered to have a supportive attitude towards donation and 11.4% are considered not to be supportive. Furthermore, SNODs are most frequently not present for the pre-mention conversation, 83.9%.
12. Preliminary data summaries indicated that where a family initiates the pre-mention conversation, the consent/authorisation rate is 88.4%. Collaborative donation decision conversations had consent/authorisation rates of 70.5% where there was a pre-mention conversation and 66.4% where there was no pre-mention conversation.

13. Further analysis is required to better understand the influence of pre-mention conversations on consent/authorisation rates. Preliminary data presented in this paper provides an initial exploration of the new data available to help inform the next steps.

**Actions**

14. Members are asked to consider how this new data relating to the previous donation conversations can be used to inform best practice.

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