



**Blood and Transplant**

# **INTERIM REPORT ON KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION**

**5 YEAR REPORT  
(1 OCTOBER 2016 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021)**

**PUBLISHED MARCH 2022**

**PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH NHS ENGLAND**



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# **Executive Summary**

This report presents key figures about kidney transplantation in the UK. The period reported covers 5 years of transplant data, from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2021. The report presents information on the number of transplants and survival analysis after first kidney only transplantation on a national and centre-specific basis.

## Key findings

- On 30 September 2021, there were 4,862 adult patients on the UK active kidney [transplant list](#) which is an increase on the number of patients a year earlier.
- There were 1,457 adult kidney only transplants performed in the UK between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, an increase of 31% compared to the previous 6 month period. Of these, 605 were from [DBD](#) donors, 435 were from [DCD](#) donors and 417 were from [living donors](#).
- The national rate of [graft survival](#) five years after first adult deceased donor kidney only transplant is 86%. These rates vary between centres, ranging from 81% to 92% ([risk-adjusted](#)).
- The national rate of graft survival five years after first adult living donor kidney only transplant is 92%. These rates vary between centres, ranging from 86% to 97% ([risk-adjusted](#)).

Use of the contents of this report should be acknowledged as follows: *Interim Report on Kidney Transplantation 2021/2022, NHS Blood and Transplant*

# Introduction

This report presents information on transplant activity between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2021, for all 24 centres performing kidney transplantation in the UK. Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry, at NHS Blood and Transplant, that holds information relating to donors, recipients and outcomes for all kidney transplants performed in the UK.

[Graft](#) and [patient survival](#) estimates are reported at one-year post-transplant for the period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2019 and five-year post-transplant for the period 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2016. Results are described separately according to the type of donor (deceased and living).

The centre specific results for survival estimates are adjusted for differences in [risk factors](#) between the centres. The risk models used are described in the [Appendix](#).

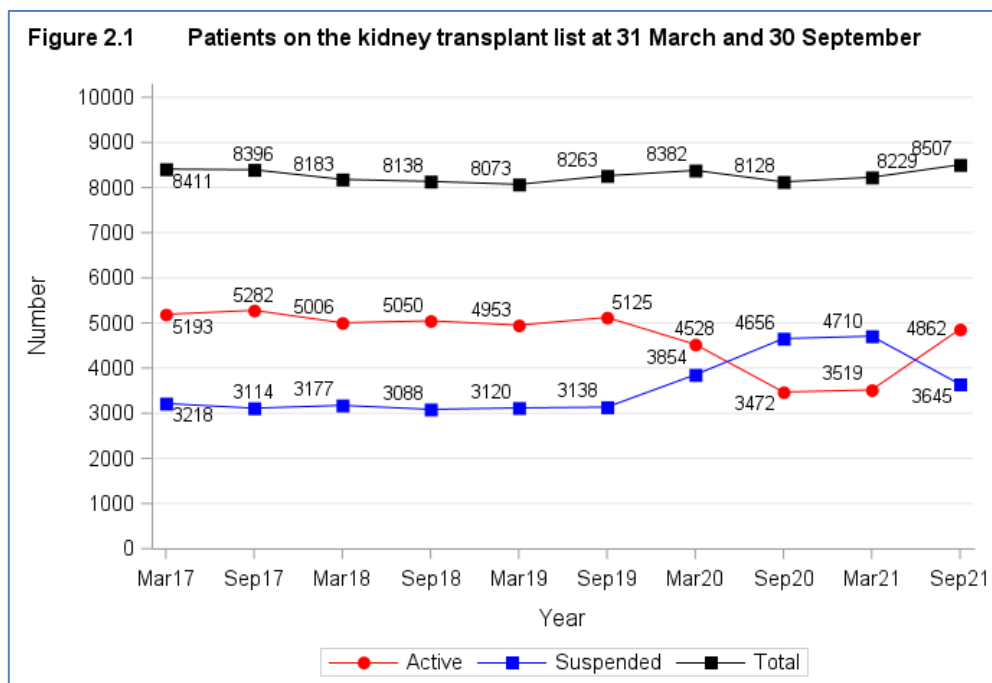
Patients requiring [multi-organ transplants](#) are excluded from all analyses and all results are described for adult patients (aged  $\geq 18$  years) other than those presented in this Introduction section which also includes paediatric patients. Transplants performed at private hospitals are included in national totals but not in centre-specific breakdowns.

Throughout this report West London Renal and Transplant Centre is labeled as WLRTC.

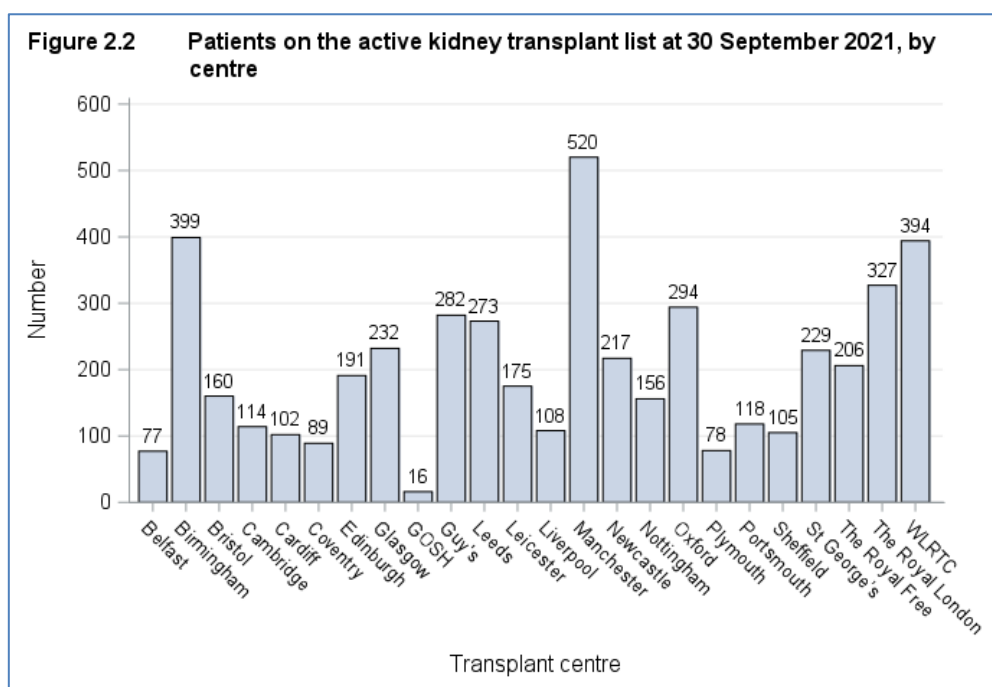
On 11 September 2019, a new National Kidney Offering Scheme was introduced to offer kidneys from both donors after brain death and donors after circulatory death. This is a change from the previous system where kidneys from donors after circulatory death were offered under a different scheme than kidneys from donors after brain death. The scheme has two tiers with priority going to patients who are the most difficult to match or who have waited over 7 years for a transplant.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented challenges for UK transplantation. Concerns about the ability to care for transplant recipients, lack of access to resource because it is being used for patients in the pandemic, and the risk versus benefit for immunosuppressed transplant recipients, have resulted in a major reduction in the number of organ transplants undertaken.

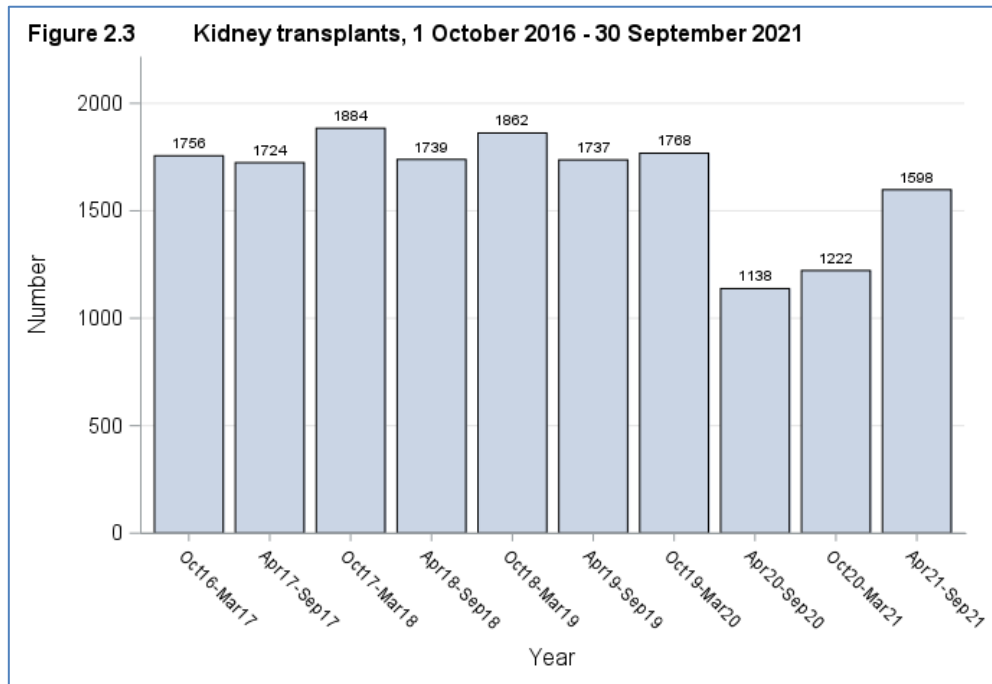
**Figure 2.1** shows the number of patients on the kidney [transplant list](#) at 31 March and 30 September each year between 2017 and 2021. There has been a decrease of 6% over the period from 5,193 at 31 March 2017 to 4,862 at 30 September 2021. The number of patients actively waiting for a kidney transplant was steady until September 2019, but declined in 2020, reaching a low of 3,472 in September 2020, and increased to 4,862 in September 2021.



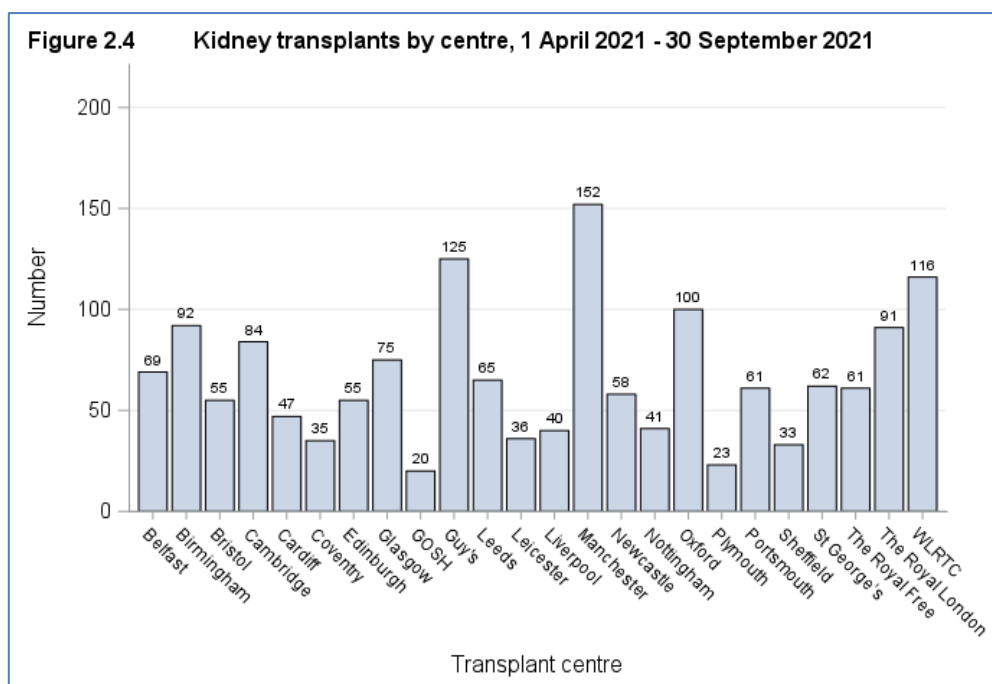
**Figure 2.2** shows the number of patients on the kidney [transplant list](#) at 30 September 2021 for each transplant centre. Manchester has the largest active [transplant list](#) with 520 patients registered for a kidney transplant.



**Figure 2.3** shows the total number of kidney transplants performed in the last five years, in 6 month periods. The number of transplants remained stable between 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017 (1,756) and 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020 (1,768). The number of transplants between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020 was considerably lower than the previous 6 month period (1,138). The most recent 6 month period, 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021, had saw an increase in the number of transplants compared to the previous 6 month period with 1,598.

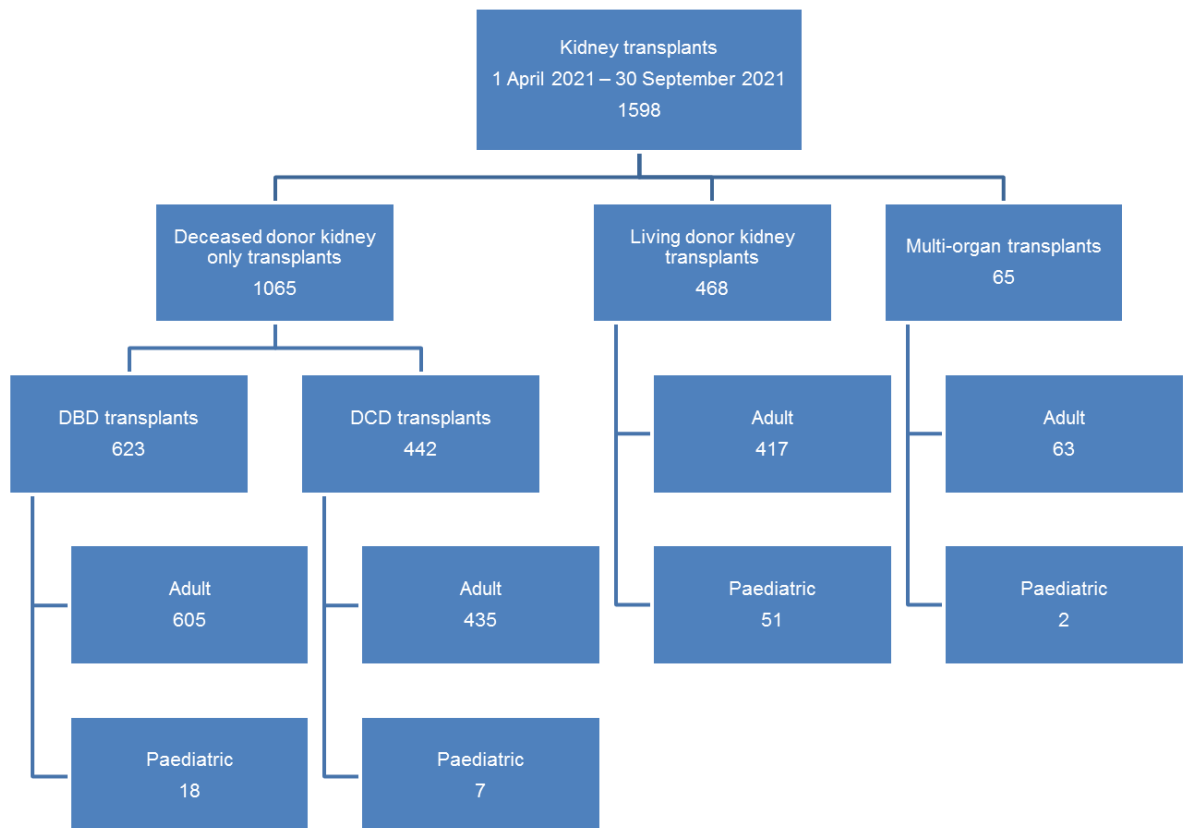


**Figure 2.4** shows the total number of kidney transplants performed between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 at each transplant centre. Manchester performed the most kidney transplants in this period with 152 patients receiving a transplant.



**Figure 2.5** details the 1,598 kidney transplants performed in the UK between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021. Of these, 1,065 (67%) were deceased donor kidney only transplants and 468 (29%) were living donor kidney transplants. Of the 65 multi-organ transplants, 55 were simultaneous kidney and pancreas transplants, 4 were kidney and liver transplants, 4 were kidney and pancreas islet transplants and 2 were heart and kidney transplants.

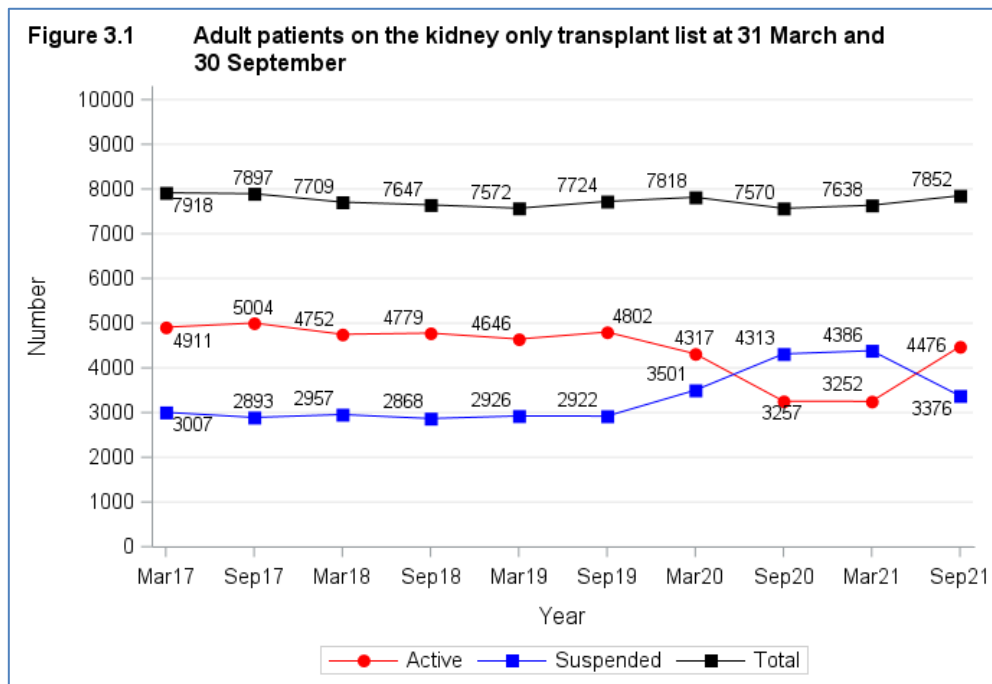
**Figure 2.5 Kidney transplants performed in the UK,  
1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021**



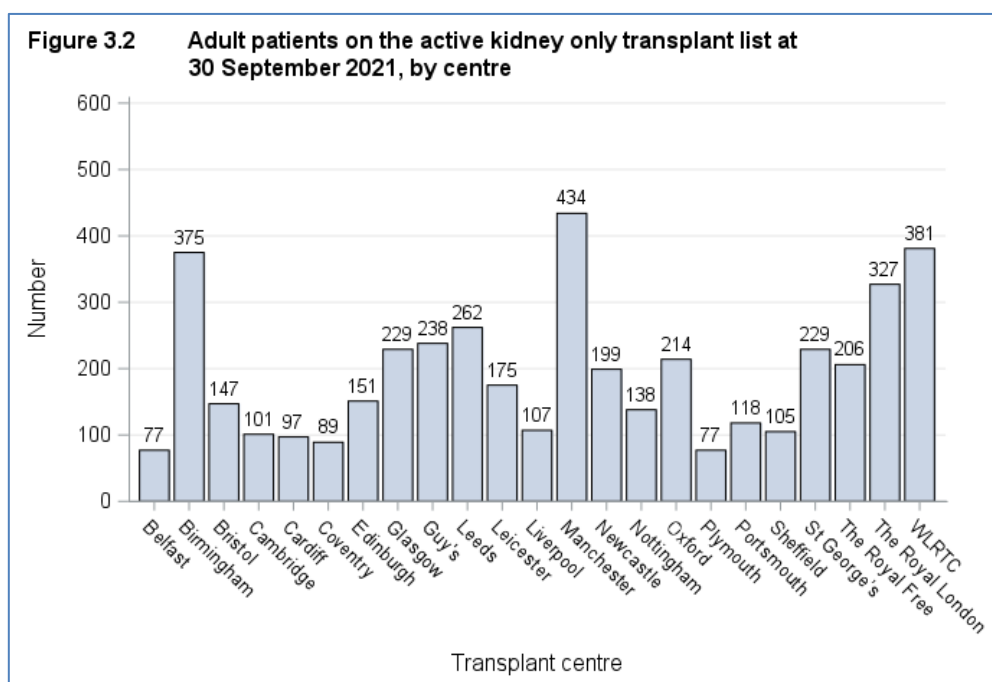
## **Adult kidney transplant list**

### 3.1 Patients on the kidney transplant list as at 31 March and 30 September, 2017-2021

**Figure 3.1** shows the number of adult patients on the kidney only [transplant list](#) at 31 March and 30 September each year between 2017 and 2021. The number of patients actively waiting for a kidney transplant decreased across the time considered from 4,911 at 31 March 2017 to 4,476 at 30 September 2021.



**Figure 3.2** shows the number of adult patients on the active kidney only [transplant list](#) at 30 September 2021 by centre. In total, there were 4,476 adult patients. Manchester had the largest proportion on the [transplant list](#) (10%), with Belfast and Plymouth having the smallest (2%).



### 3.2 Median waiting time to transplant, 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2018

The length of time a patient waits for a kidney transplant varies across the UK. The [median](#) waiting time for adult deceased donor kidney only transplantation is shown in **Figure 3.3** and **Table 3.1** for patients registered at each individual unit. During the majority of this period local allocation arrangements were in place for [DCD](#) kidneys while [DBD](#) kidneys were allocated via the 2006 [National Kidney Allocation Scheme](#). The data shown are for all adult patients, joining the list within the time period shown, including those still awaiting a transplant on the day of analysis. Patients who received a [live donor](#) or [multi-organ transplant](#) are not included. Waiting times across centres differ in a way that it is difficult for centres to control, given that the 2006 [National Kidney Allocation Scheme](#) determined allocation of all kidneys available for transplant from donors after brain death ([DBD](#)).

#### 2006 National Kidney Allocation Scheme

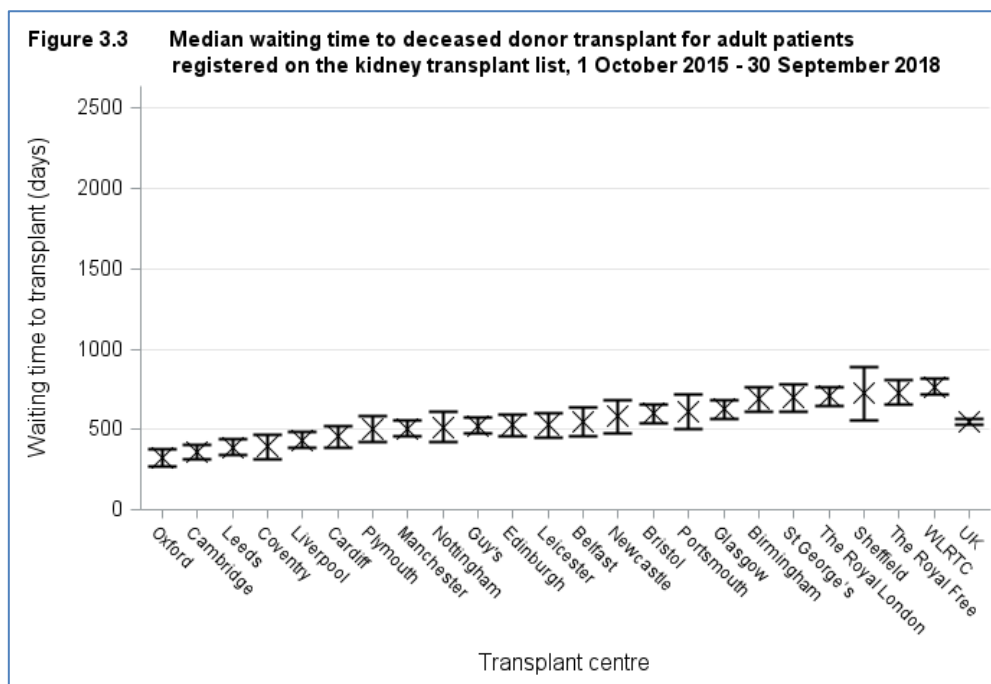
Only kidneys from donors after brain death were allocated via a national allocation scheme during the majority of the time period analysed. Kidneys from donations after circulatory death ([DCD](#)) were allocated to patients through local allocation arrangements and these vary across the country because some centres have a larger [DCD](#) programme than others. From 3 September 2014 one kidney from [DCD](#) donors aged between 5 and 49 years were allocated within four pre-defined regions using the 2006 [DBD](#) allocation principles and as such should reduce variability in waiting times across the country.

Kidneys from [DBD](#) are allocated to patients listed nationally through the 2006 Kidney Allocation Scheme. The 2006 Kidney Allocation Scheme introduced in April 2006 prioritised patients with ideal tissue matches (000 [HLA mismatches](#)) and then assigned points to patients based on the level of tissue match between donor and recipient, the length of time spent waiting for a transplant, age of the recipient (with a progressive reduction in points given after the age of thirty) and location points such that patients geographically close to the retrieval centre received more points. The patients with the highest number of points for a donated kidney were preferentially offered the kidney, no matter where in the UK they received their treatment.

#### 2019 National Kidney Offering Scheme

The 2019 Kidney Offering Scheme was introduced on 11 September 2019 and this is a single scheme for offering all kidneys from deceased donors in the UK. This scheme prioritises patients who are difficult to match or have waited a long time for a transplant.

The [median](#) waiting time to transplant for adult patients registered on the kidney only [transplant list](#) between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2018 is 546 days. This ranged from 326 days at Oxford to 766 days at WLRTC.



**Table 3.1** Median waiting time to kidney only transplant in the UK, for adult patients registered 1 October 2015 - 30 September 2018

Transplant centre	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
<b>Adult</b>			
Oxford	439	326	273 - 379
Cambridge	491	358	313 - 403
Leeds	528	390	339 - 441
Coventry	135	392	316 - 468
Liverpool	282	434	383 - 485
Cardiff	262	455	390 - 520
Plymouth	164	501	421 - 581
Manchester	653	506	457 - 555
Nottingham	244	514	419 - 609
Guy's	490	524	474 - 574
Edinburgh	289	526	455 - 597
Leicester	326	528	453 - 603
Belfast	200	549	457 - 641
Newcastle	358	581	480 - 682
Bristol	264	599	541 - 657
Portsmouth	269	613	507 - 719
Glasgow	455	625	567 - 683
Birmingham	452	687	615 - 759
St George's	372	698	611 - 785
The Royal London	395	705	645 - 765
Sheffield	187	725	561 - 889
The Royal Free	375	729	653 - 805
WLRTC	565	766	716 - 816
<b>UK</b>	<b>8195</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>530 - 562</b>

## **Response to adult kidney offers**

## Offer decline rates

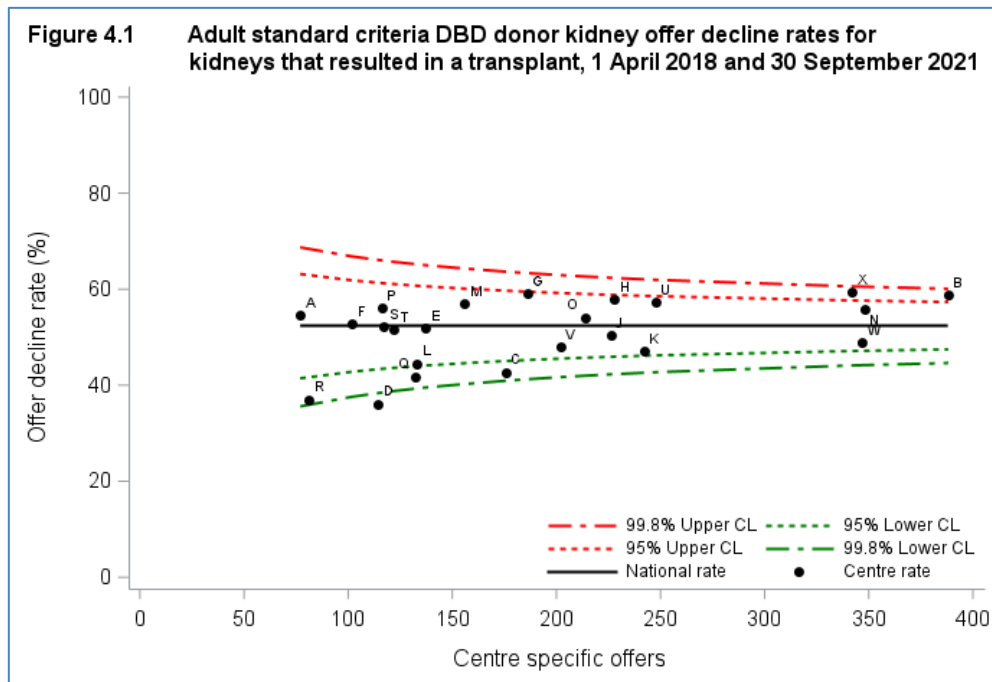
Kidney-only offers from [DBD](#) donors who had at least one kidney retrieved, offered directly and on behalf of a named individual patient and resulted in transplantation are included in the analysis. Any offers made through the reallocation of kidneys, declined kidney or fast track schemes were excluded, as were offers of kidneys from [donations after circulatory death](#) donors.

In order to understand centre practices more fully, data are presented separately for standard and extended criteria donors (SCD & ECD). ECD have been defined as [DBD](#) donors aged  $\geq 60$  years at the time of death OR aged 50 to 59 years with at least two of the following three donor characteristics: hypertension, creatinine  $> 130 \mu\text{mol/l}$  or death due to intracranial haemorrhage. SCD are [DBD](#) donors that did not meet the ECD criteria.

[Funnel plots](#) were used to compare centre specific offer decline rates and indicate how consistent the rates of the individual transplant centres are with the national rate. The overall national unadjusted offer decline rate is shown by the solid line while the 95% and 99.8% [confidence lines](#) are indicated via a thin and thick dotted line, respectively. Each dot in the plot represents an individual transplant centre. Centres that are positioned above the upper limits indicate an offer decline rate that is higher than the national rate, while centres positioned below the lower limits indicates an offer decline rate that is lower than the national rate. Patient [case mix](#) is known to influence the number of offers a centre may receive. In this analysis however only individual offers for named patients were considered which excluded any [ABO](#)- and HLA-incompatible patients. For this reason it was decided not to risk adjust for known centre differences in patient [case mix](#).

#### 4.1 Standard criteria offer decline rates, 1 April 2018 – 30 September 2021

**Figure 4.1** compares individual centre offer decline rates with the national rate for SCD over the time period, 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2021. Centres can be identified by the information shown in **Table 4.1**. The offer decline rates for Birmingham and WLRTC are above the upper 95% [confidence limit](#), indicating that they may have a significantly higher decline rate than the national rate. Cambridge has a decline rate below the lower 99.8% [confidence limit](#), indicating that they have a significantly lower decline rate than the national rate. There is some evidence that the decline rates for Bristol, Oxford and Plymouth are significantly lower than the national rate.

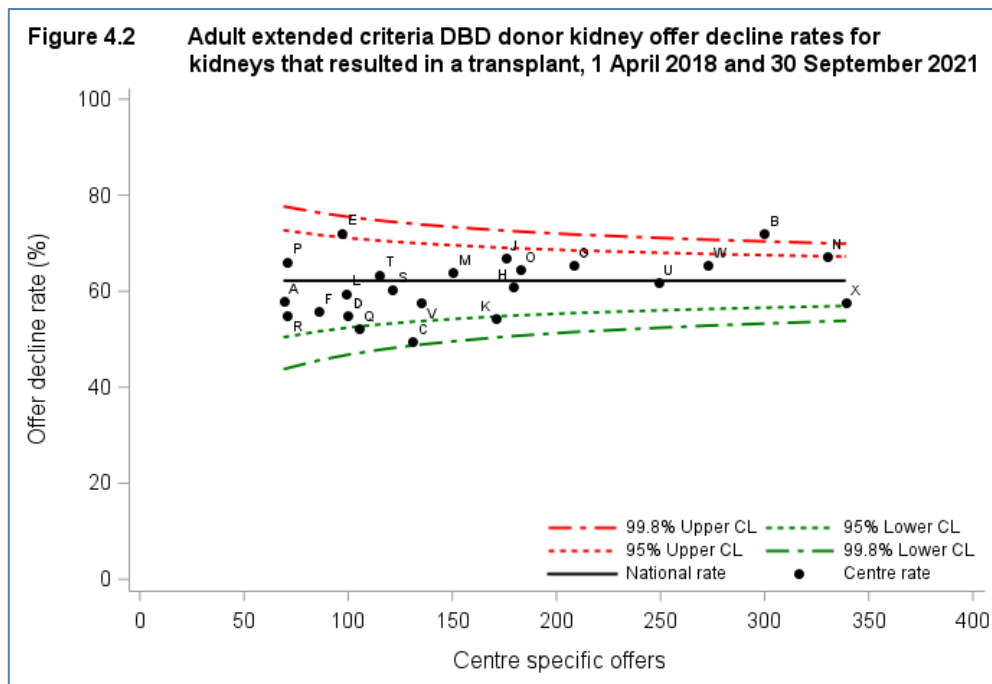


**Table 4.1** compares individual centre offer decline rates for SCD over time. The decline rate has decreased to 52% between 1 April 2021 – 30 Sep 2021 from 61% in 2020/21.

<b>Table 4.1 Adult standard criteria DBD donor kidney offer decline rates by transplant centre, 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2021</b>											
Centre	Code	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		1 Apr - 30 Sep		Overall	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Belfast	A	17	(53)	17	(12)	38	(76)	5	(40)	77	(55)
Birmingham	B	77	(43)	112	(57)	121	(69)	78	(62)	388	(59)
Bristol	C	55	(42)	47	(49)	55	(42)	19	(32)	176	(43)
Cambridge	D	31	(29)	29	(17)	31	(42)	23	(61)	114	(36)
Cardiff	E	35	(49)	31	(48)	47	(53)	24	(58)	137	(52)
Coventry	F	28	(25)	26	(62)	36	(61)	12	(75)	102	(53)
Edinburgh	G	47	(55)	46	(50)	77	(68)	16	(56)	186	(59)
Glasgow	H	58	(52)	64	(55)	83	(67)	23	(48)	228	(58)
Guy's	J	86	(51)	70	(51)	32	(56)	38	(42)	226	(50)
Leeds	K	78	(42)	62	(37)	75	(59)	27	(52)	242	(47)
Leicester	L	37	(27)	50	(40)	31	(58)	15	(73)	133	(44)
Liverpool	M	43	(42)	47	(53)	54	(76)	12	(42)	156	(57)
Manchester	N	70	(51)	82	(46)	137	(69)	59	(44)	348	(56)
Newcastle	O	60	(60)	53	(53)	82	(51)	19	(53)	214	(54)
Nottingham	P	26	(54)	42	(50)	29	(66)	19	(58)	116	(56)
Oxford	Q	41	(46)	29	(45)	43	(40)	19	(32)	132	(42)
Plymouth	R	23	(30)	20	(25)	25	(32)	13	(77)	81	(37)
Portsmouth	S	40	(45)	39	(56)	11	(55)	27	(56)	117	(52)
Sheffield	T	31	(45)	28	(32)	46	(72)	17	(41)	122	(52)
St George's	U	70	(49)	93	(56)	48	(67)	37	(65)	248	(57)
The Royal Free	V	47	(38)	69	(52)	64	(48)	22	(55)	202	(48)
The Royal London	W	104	(41)	97	(48)	72	(63)	74	(47)	347	(49)
WLRTC	X	96	(60)	110	(63)	75	(64)	61	(46)	342	(59)
<b>UK</b>		<b>1200</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>1263</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>4434</b>	<b>(52)</b>

## 4.2 Extended criteria offer decline rates, 1 April 2018 – 30 September 2021

**Figure 4.2** compares individual centre offer decline rates with the national rate for ECD over the time period, 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2021. Centres can be identified by the information shown in **Table 4.2**. The offer decline rates for Birmingham are above the upper 99.8% [confidence limit](#), indicating that they have a significantly higher decline rate than the national rate. There is some evidence that the decline rate for Cardiff is significantly higher than the national rate. There is some evidence that the decline rates for Bristol, Leeds and Oxford are significantly lower than the national rate.



**Table 4.2** compares individual centre offer decline rates for ECD over time. Nationally, the number of offers have decreased, as has the offer decline rate (63% in 2018/19 to 58% between 1 April and 30 September 2021).

**Table 4.2 Adult extended criteria DBD donor kidney offer decline rates by transplant centre, 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2021**

Centre	Code	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		1 Apr - 30 Sep		Overall	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Belfast	A	25	(64)	17	(59)	19	(63)	8	(25)	69	(58)
Birmingham	B	89	(64)	87	(66)	69	(87)	55	(76)	300	(72)
Bristol	C	58	(50)	42	(50)	22	(59)	9	(22)	131	(50)
Cambridge	D	39	(54)	30	(50)	18	(50)	13	(77)	100	(55)
Cardiff	E	35	(69)	22	(64)	26	(85)	14	(71)	97	(72)
Coventry	F	19	(53)	36	(47)	25	(76)	6	(33)	86	(56)
Edinburgh	G	67	(61)	56	(61)	67	(73)	18	(67)	208	(65)
Glasgow	H	71	(63)	46	(46)	46	(70)	16	(69)	179	(61)
Guy's	J	87	(75)	47	(62)	22	(50)	20	(65)	176	(67)
Leeds	K	56	(46)	41	(51)	56	(63)	18	(61)	171	(54)
Leicester	L	33	(42)	20	(60)	28	(68)	18	(78)	99	(60)
Liverpool	M	57	(67)	40	(63)	38	(68)	15	(47)	150	(64)
Manchester	N	91	(58)	71	(56)	129	(82)	39	(59)	330	(67)
Newcastle	O	65	(74)	53	(64)	53	(58)	12	(42)	183	(64)
Nottingham	P	23	(43)	20	(80)	16	(81)	12	(67)	71	(66)
Oxford	Q	42	(55)	29	(52)	23	(52)	11	(45)	105	(52)
Plymouth	R	26	(58)	16	(50)	20	(60)	9	(44)	71	(55)
Portsmouth	S	49	(61)	38	(63)	10	(50)	24	(58)	121	(60)
Sheffield	T	54	(69)	31	(52)	15	(67)	15	(67)	115	(63)
St George's	U	110	(70)	88	(52)	35	(63)	16	(56)	249	(62)
The Royal Free	V	41	(63)	44	(59)	37	(51)	13	(54)	135	(58)
The Royal London	W	128	(74)	90	(57)	26	(69)	29	(52)	273	(66)
WLRTC	X	103	(62)	104	(55)	73	(68)	59	(41)	339	(58)
<b>UK</b>		<b>1368</b>	<b>(63)</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>(57)</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>(69)</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>3758</b>	<b>(62)</b>

### 4.3 Reallocation of kidneys, 1 April 2018 – 30 September 2021

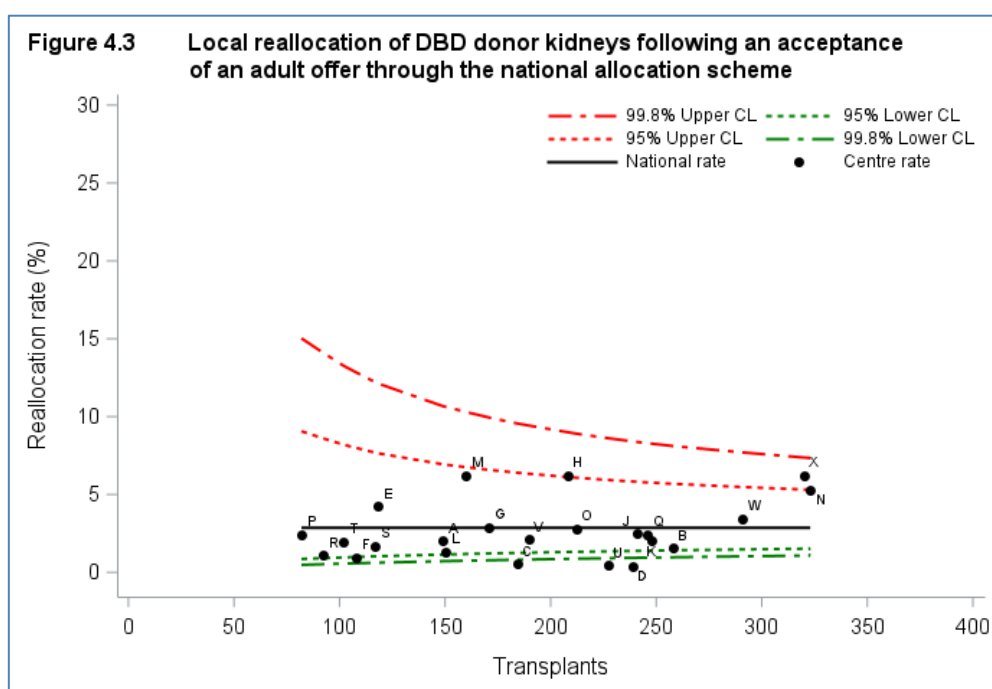
Between 3 April 2006 and 11 September 2019 all kidneys from donation after brain death (DBD) donors have been allocated through the 2006 [National Kidney Allocation Scheme](#). There are however certain situations when a kidney can be reallocated to an alternative patient of the centre's choice. This occurs when the kidney is accepted and dispatched to a named patient but is subsequently declined and there are no other patients listed nationally who fall within Tiers A to D of the kidney allocation scheme (000 mismatched adult and paediatric patients or favourably matched paediatric patients).

In this situation the centre in receipt of the kidney can reallocate the organ to a locally listed patient of their choice based on an individual centre matching run.

Since 11 September 2019 all kidneys from deceased donors have been allocated through the 2019 National Kidney Offering Scheme. In a similar fashion to the 2006 scheme, if a kidney needs to be reallocated because the patient for whom the kidney has been accepted cannot subsequently receive the transplant then the kidney can be reallocated to an alternative patient of the centre's choice if the kidney has been dispatched to the transplant centre and there are no suitable patients in Tier A.

[Funnel plots](#) were used to compare centre specific reallocation rates and indicate how consistent the rates of the individual transplant centres are with the national rate. The overall national reallocation rate is shown by the solid line while the 95% and 99.8% [confidence lines](#) are indicated via a thin and thick dotted line, respectively. Each dot in the plot represents an individual transplant centre. Centres that are positioned above the upper limits indicate a reallocation rate that is higher than the national rate, while centres positioned below the lower limits indicates a reallocation rate that is lower than the national rate.

**Figure 4.3** compares individual centre reallocation rates with the national rate over the time period, 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2021. Centres can be identified by the information shown in **Table 4.3**. Nationally 3% of all [DBD](#) kidney only transplants used kidneys that had been reallocated.



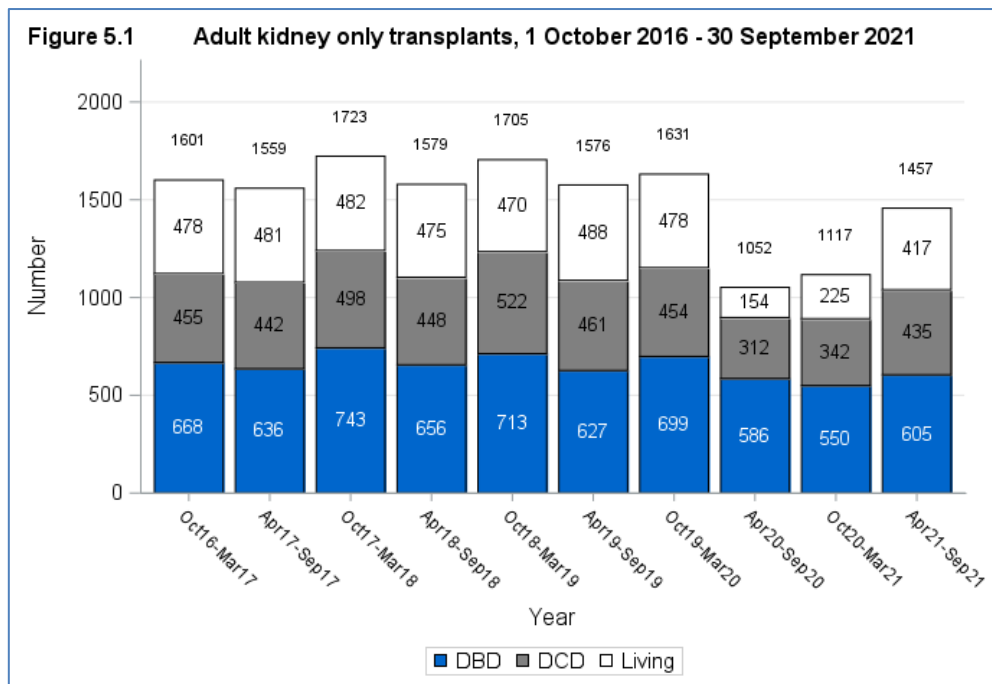
**Table 4.3** compares individual reallocation rates over time by financial year.

<b>Table 4.3 Local reallocation of DBD donor kidneys following an acceptance of an adult offer through the national allocation scheme</b>											
Centre	Code	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		1 Apr - 30 Sep		Overall	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Belfast	A	20	(10)	25	(0)	87	(0)	17	(6)	149	(2)
Birmingham	B	79	(1)	83	(0)	52	(4)	44	(2)	258	(2)
Bristol	C	62	(0)	49	(2)	49	(0)	24	(0)	184	(1)
Cambridge	D	66	(2)	64	(0)	82	(0)	27	(0)	239	(0)
Cardiff	E	37	(3)	34	(3)	29	(3)	18	(11)	118	(4)
Coventry	F	30	(0)	32	(0)	38	(3)	8	(0)	108	(1)
Edinburgh	G	53	(4)	50	(2)	51	(4)	17	(0)	171	(3)
Glasgow	H	60	(7)	63	(3)	63	(11)	22	(0)	208	(6)
Guy's	J	93	(1)	88	(6)	29	(0)	31	(0)	241	(2)
Leeds	K	88	(2)	74	(1)	66	(3)	20	(0)	248	(2)
Leicester	L	57	(0)	48	(4)	36	(0)	9	(0)	150	(1)
Liverpool	M	54	(7)	48	(10)	33	(3)	25	(0)	160	(6)
Manchester	N	103	(7)	89	(6)	75	(4)	56	(4)	323	(5)
Newcastle	O	51	(2)	54	(4)	88	(3)	19	(0)	212	(3)
Nottingham	P	25	(0)	28	(0)	16	(13)	13	(0)	82	(2)
Oxford	Q	71	(4)	48	(4)	95	(0)	32	(3)	246	(2)
Plymouth	R	30	(3)	27	(0)	26	(0)	9	(0)	92	(1)
Portsmouth	S	43	(5)	37	(0)	11	(0)	26	(0)	117	(2)
Sheffield	T	35	(3)	35	(3)	17	(0)	15	(0)	102	(2)
St George's	U	72	(0)	89	(1)	43	(0)	23	(0)	227	(0)
The Royal Free	V	56	(4)	54	(2)	59	(0)	21	(5)	190	(2)
The Royal London	W	100	(5)	101	(4)	35	(0)	55	(2)	291	(3)
WLRTC	X	84	(8)	106	(6)	56	(7)	74	(4)	320	(6)
<b>UK</b>		<b>1369</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>4436</b>	<b>(3)</b>

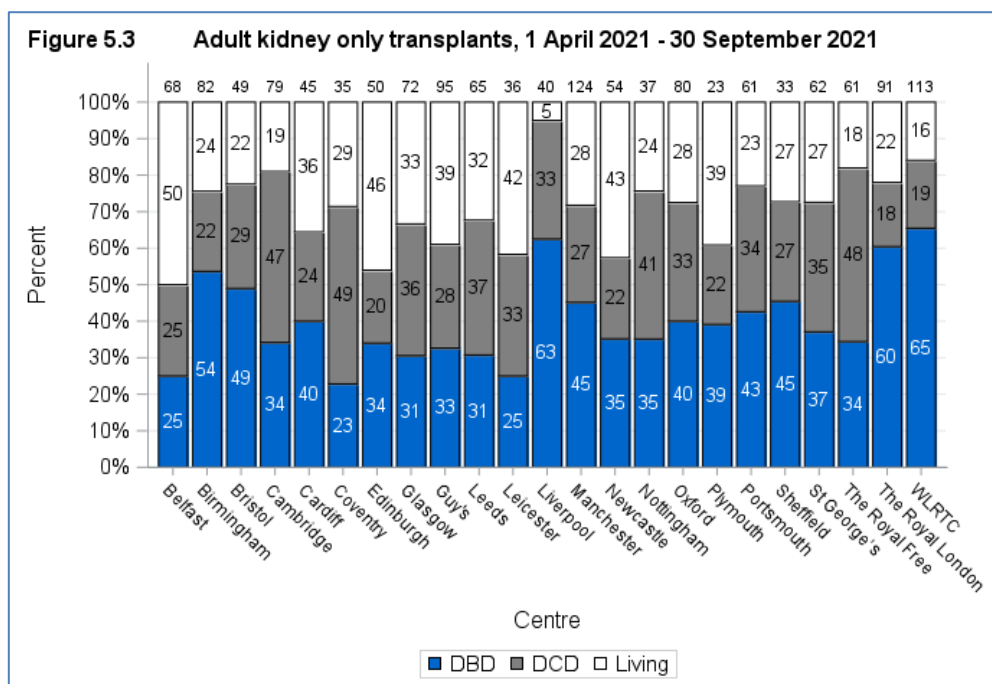
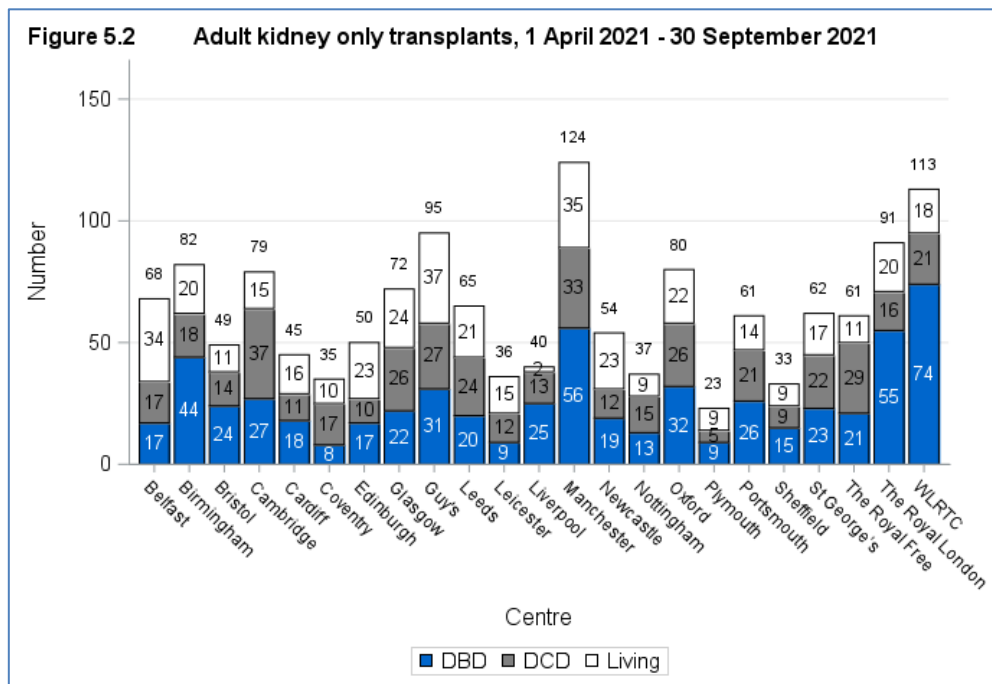
# **Adult kidney transplants**

## 5.1 Kidney only transplants, 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2021

**Figure 5.1** shows the total number of adult kidney only transplants performed in the last five years, by type of donor. The number of [DBD](#) transplants have increased to 605 in the most recent period from 550 in the previous period. The number of [DCD](#) transplants has risen in the most recent period to 435 from 342 in the previous period. The number of [living](#) transplants remained stable between 1 October 2015 and 31 March 2020 but was much lower during the 6 month periods 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 and 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. The number of living transplants has recovered in the most recent period, rising to 417.



**Figure 5.2** shows the total number of adult kidney only transplants performed between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, by centre and type of donor. The same information is presented in **Figure 5.3** but this shows the proportion of [DBD](#), [DCD](#) and [living donor](#) transplants performed at each centre.



## 5.2 Kidney donor risk-index<sup>1</sup>, 1 April 2016 – 30 September 2021

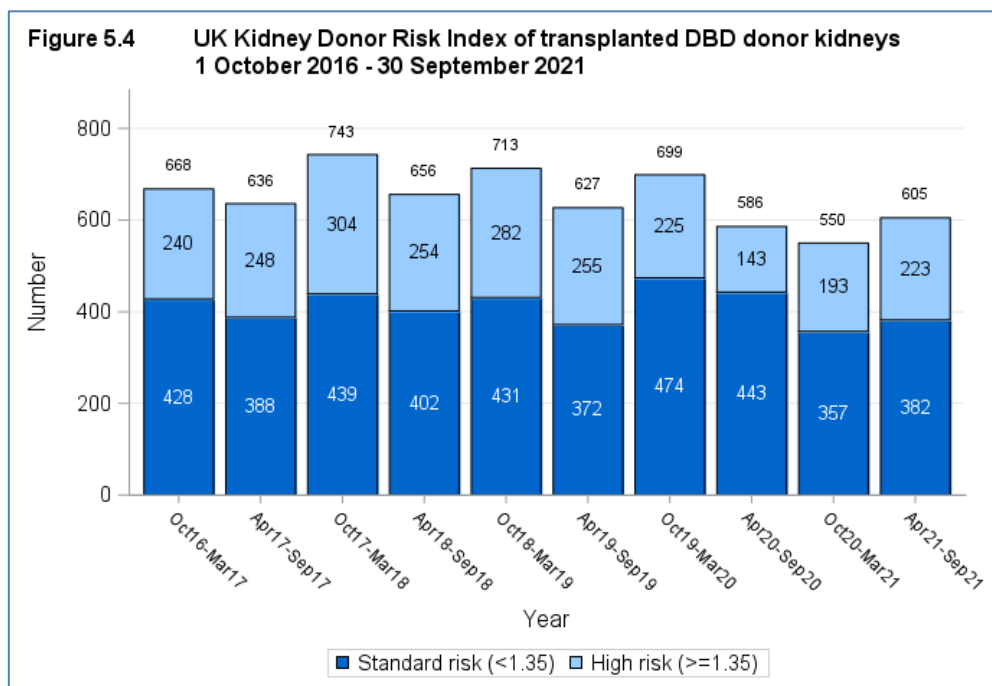
The severe shortage of deceased donor (DD) organs available for transplantation has led to increased use of kidneys from suboptimal donors with potentially less good transplant outcomes. Categorising such kidneys according to anticipated outcome is important because it enables clinicians to be better informed when making decisions about organ allocation and allows appropriate counselling of potential recipients. Kidneys from suboptimal donors are variously referred to as marginal, extended criteria, or expanded criteria organs. Although categorising DD kidneys as either standard or expanded criteria has the advantage of simplicity, it does not adequately reflect the wide spectrum of donor kidney quality, and this has led to the development of more refined approaches to assessing the quality of DD kidneys. A donor risk index was developed by determining the factors that influence transplant survival, the time from transplant to the earlier of graft failure or patient death. A UK donor risk index was derived from the parameter estimates of the donor factors in the Cox model developed for overall transplant survival. This gives the following index:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{UKKDRI} = & \exp\{-0.245 \times (\text{donor age} < 40) + \\ & 0.396 \times (\text{donor age} \geq 60) + \\ & 0.265 \times (\text{history of hypertension}) + \\ & 0.0253 \times [\text{donor weight(kg)} - 75] / 10 + \\ & 0.00461 \times (\text{days in hospital}) + \\ & 0.0465 \times (\text{adrenaline})\} \end{aligned}$$

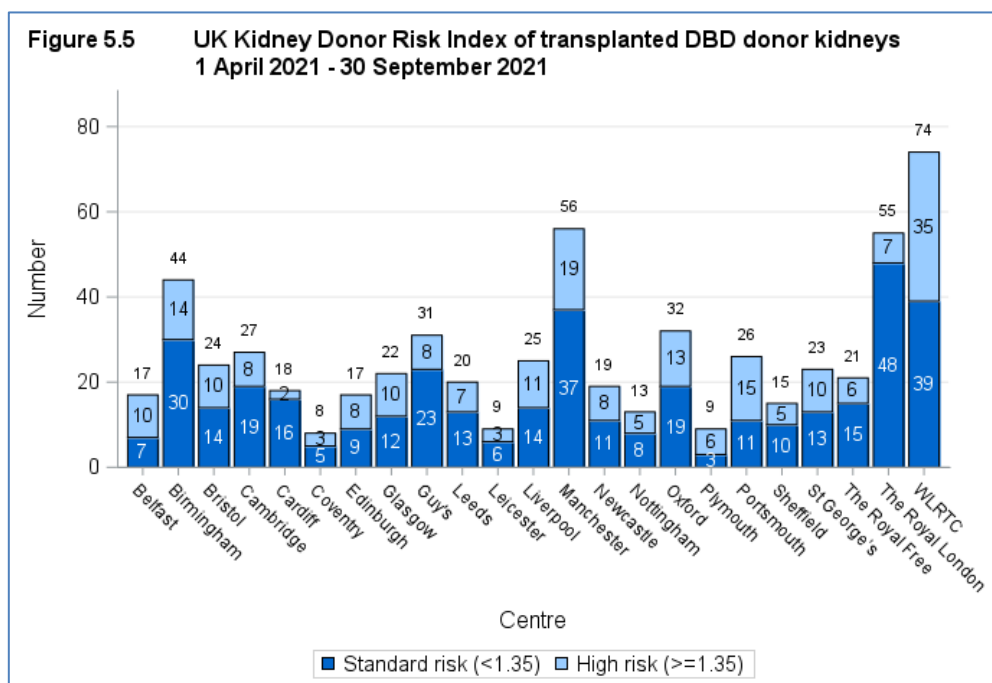
### Reference

- 1 Watson CJE, Johnson RJ, Birch R, Collett D, Bradley JA. A simplified donor risk index for predicting outcome after deceased donor kidney transplantation. *Transplantation*, 2012; 93: 314-318

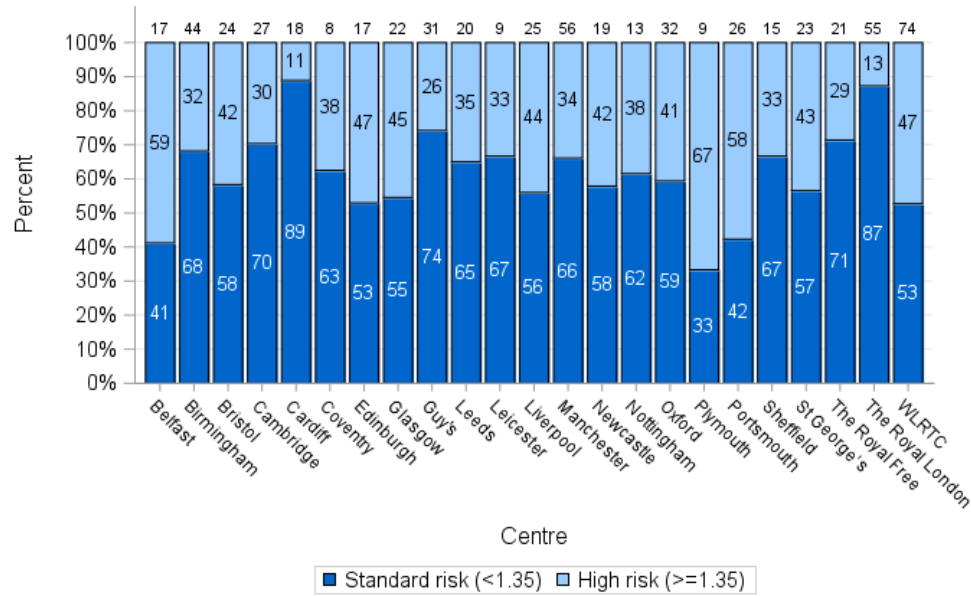
**Figure 5.4** shows the number of transplanted [DBD](#) donor kidneys over the last five years by kidney donor risk index group. Between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, 37% of all transplants were performed using kidneys from donors categorised as high risk (UK Donor risk index  $\geq 1.35$ ).



**Figure 5.5** shows the number of transplanted [DBD](#) donor kidneys between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 by kidney donor risk index group for each transplant centre. The same information is presented in **Figure 5.6** but this shows the proportion of standard risk and high risk donor transplants performed at each centre.



**Figure 5.6 UK Kidney Donor Risk Index of transplanted DBD donor kidneys  
1 April 2021 - 30 September 2021**



## **Adult kidney outcomes**

We present a visual comparison of survival rates among centres that is based on a graphical display known as a [funnel plot](#)<sup>1,2</sup>. This display is used to show how consistent the rates of the different transplant units are with the national rate. [Funnel plots](#) show the [risk-adjusted survival rate](#) plotted against the number of transplants for each centre, with the overall national [unadjusted survival rate](#) (solid line), and its 95% (thin dotted lines) and 99.8% (thick dotted lines) [confidence limits](#) superimposed. Each dot in the plot represents one of the centres. Note that many patients return to local renal units for follow-up care after their transplant and although we report survival according to transplant unit, patients may in fact be followed up quite distantly from their transplant centre.

#### Interpreting the [funnel plots](#)

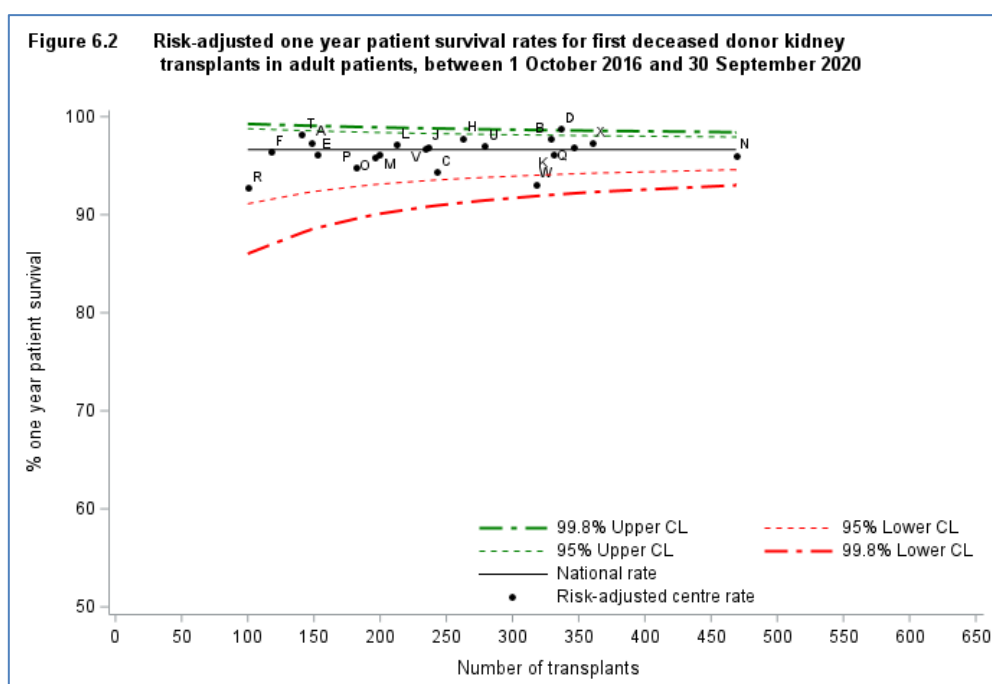
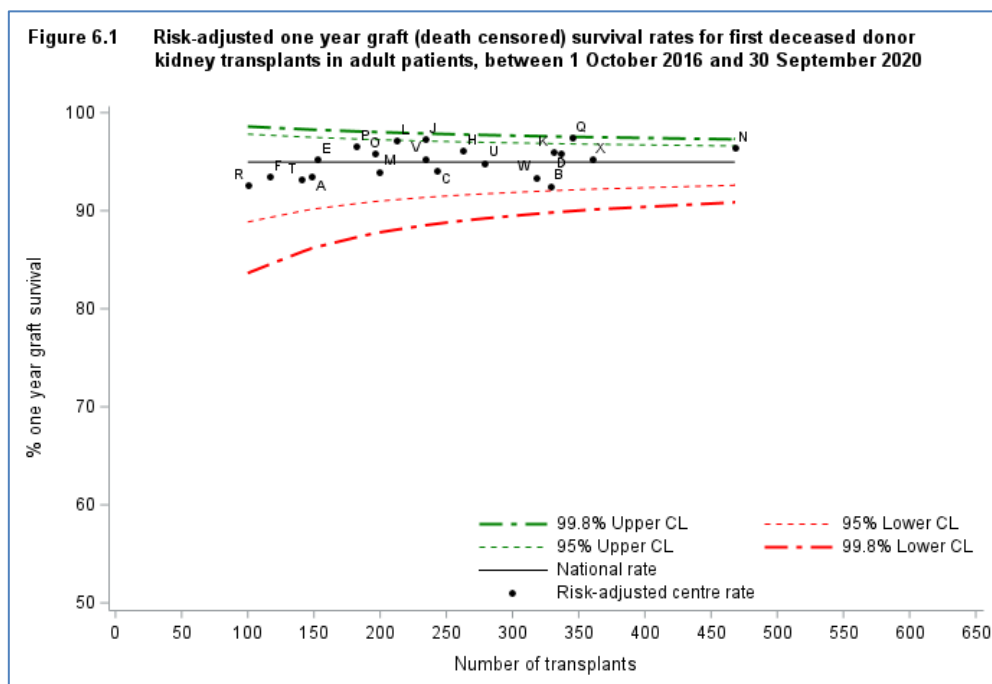
If a centre lies within all the limits, then that centre has a survival rate that is statistically consistent with the national rate. If a centre lies outside the 95% [confidence limits](#), this serves as an alert that the centre may have a rate that is significantly different from the national rate. If a centre lies outside the 99.8% limits, then further investigations may be carried out to determine the reasons for the possible difference. When a centre lies above the upper limits, this indicates a survival rate that is higher than the national rate, while a centre that lies below the lower limits has a survival rate that is lower than the national rate. It is important to note that adjusting for patient mix through the use of risk-adjustment models may not account for all possible causes of centre differences. There may be other factors that are not taken into account in the risk-adjustment process that may affect the survival rate of a particular centre.

#### References

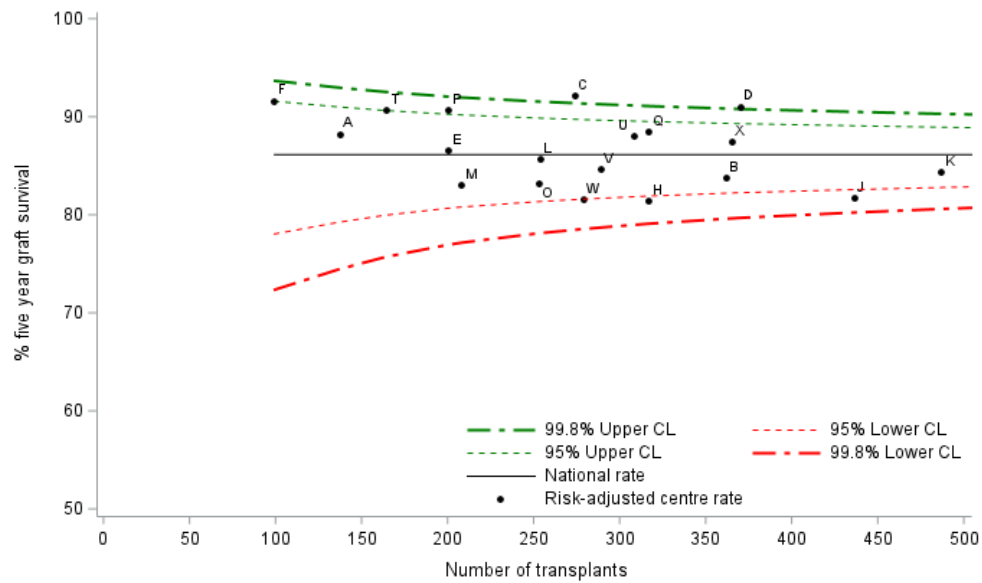
1. Tekkis PP, McCulloch P, Steger AC, Benjamin IS, Poloniecki JD. Mortality control charts for comparing performance of surgical units: validation study using hospital mortality data. *British Medical Journal* 2003; 326: 786 – 788.
2. Stark J, Gallivan S, Lovegrove J, Hamilton JRL, Monro JL, Pollock JCS, Watterson KG. Mortality rates after surgery for congenital heart defects in children and surgeons' performance. *Lancet* 2000; 355: 1004 – 1007.

## 6.1 Deceased donor graft and patient survival

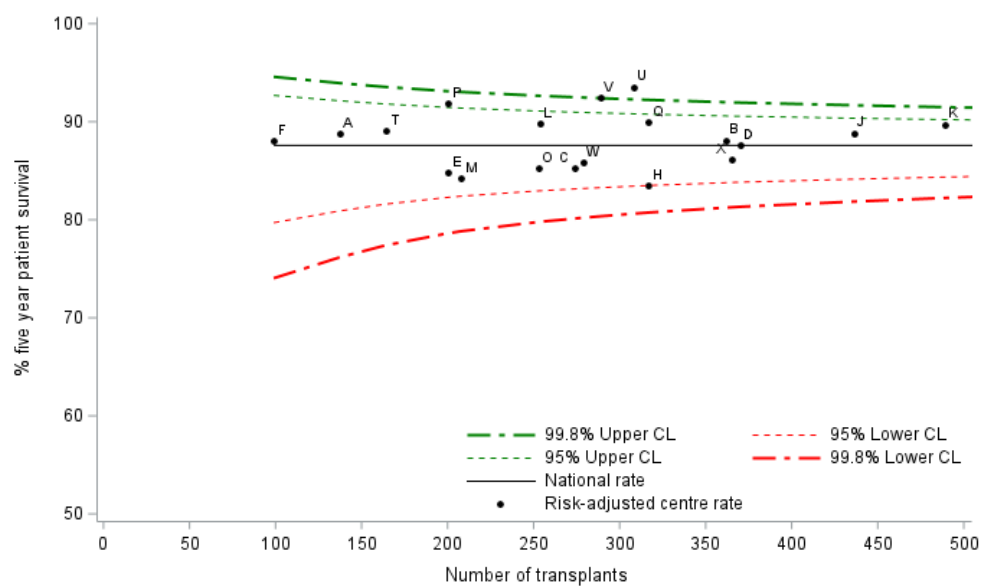
The [funnel plots](#) show that, for the most part, the centres lie within the [confidence limits](#). Some of the [funnel plots](#) show some centres to be above the upper 99.8% [confidence limit](#). This suggests that these centres may have survival rates that are considerably higher than the national rate. Centres can be identified by the information shown in **Table 6.1**. Note patients who received a previous living donor transplant are excluded from patient survival but included in graft survival. Centres with follow up information for less than 75% of patients have been excluded.



**Figure 6.3 Risk-adjusted five year graft (death censored) survival rates for first deceased donor kidney transplants in adult patients, between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2016**



**Figure 6.4 Risk-adjusted five year patient survival rates for first deceased donor kidney transplants in adult patients, between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2016**



**Table 6.1 One and five year first adult kidney-only graft and patient survival using kidneys from deceased donors**

Centre	Code	Kidney graft survival				Patient survival			
		One-year*		Five-year**		One-year*		Five-year**	
		%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Belfast	A	94	(90 - 96)	88	(79 - 94)	97	(94 - 99)	89	(81 - 94)
Birmingham	B	92	(89 - 95)	84	(79 - 88)	98	(95 - 99)	88	(83 - 92)
Bristol	C	94	(91 - 96)	92	(87 - 95)	94	(90 - 97)	85	(79 - 90)
Cambridge	D	96	(93 - 97)	91	(87 - 94)	99	(97 - 100)	88	(83 - 91)
Cardiff	E	95	(91 - 98)	86	(80 - 91)	96	(92 - 98)	85	(79 - 90)
Coventry	F	93	(87 - 97)	91	(82 - 96)	96	(91 - 99)	88	(78 - 94)
Glasgow	H	96	(94 - 98)	81	(75 - 86)	98	(96 - 99)	84	(78 - 88)
Guy's	J	97	(95 - 99)	82	(77 - 86)	97	(94 - 99)	89	(85 - 92)
Leeds	K	96	(94 - 98)	84	(80 - 88)	96	(94 - 98)	90	(86 - 93)
Leicester	L	97	(95 - 99)	86	(80 - 90)	97	(95 - 99)	90	(85 - 93)
Liverpool	M	94	(90 - 97)	82	(74 - 88)	96	(93 - 98)	84	(77 - 90)
Manchester	N	96	(95 - 98)	88	(84 - 91)	96	(94 - 97)	85	(81 - 88)
Newcastle	O	96	(93 - 98)	83	(76 - 88)	96	(93 - 98)	85	(80 - 90)
Nottingham	P	97	(93 - 99)	90	(85 - 94)	95	(90 - 97)	92	(86 - 96)
Oxford	Q	98	(96 - 99)	88	(84 - 92)	97	(95 - 98)	90	(86 - 93)
Plymouth	R	93	(86 - 97)	N/A†	N/A†	93	(85 - 97)	N/A†	N/A†
Sheffield	T	93	(89 - 96)	91	(84 - 95)	98	(95 - 100)	89	(83 - 94)
St George's	U	95	(92 - 97)	88	(82 - 92)	97	(94 - 99)	94	(90 - 96)
The Royal Free	V	95	(92 - 97)	84	(78 - 88)	97	(94 - 99)	92	(88 - 95)
The Royal London	W	93	(90 - 96)	82	(76 - 86)	93	(90 - 96)	86	(79 - 91)
WLRTC	X	95	(93 - 97)	87	(83 - 91)	97	(96 - 99)	86	(82 - 89)
<b>UK</b>		<b>95</b>	<b>(94 - 95)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>(85 - 87)</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>(96 - 97)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>(87 - 88)</b>
		Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit							
		Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit							
		Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit							
		Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit							

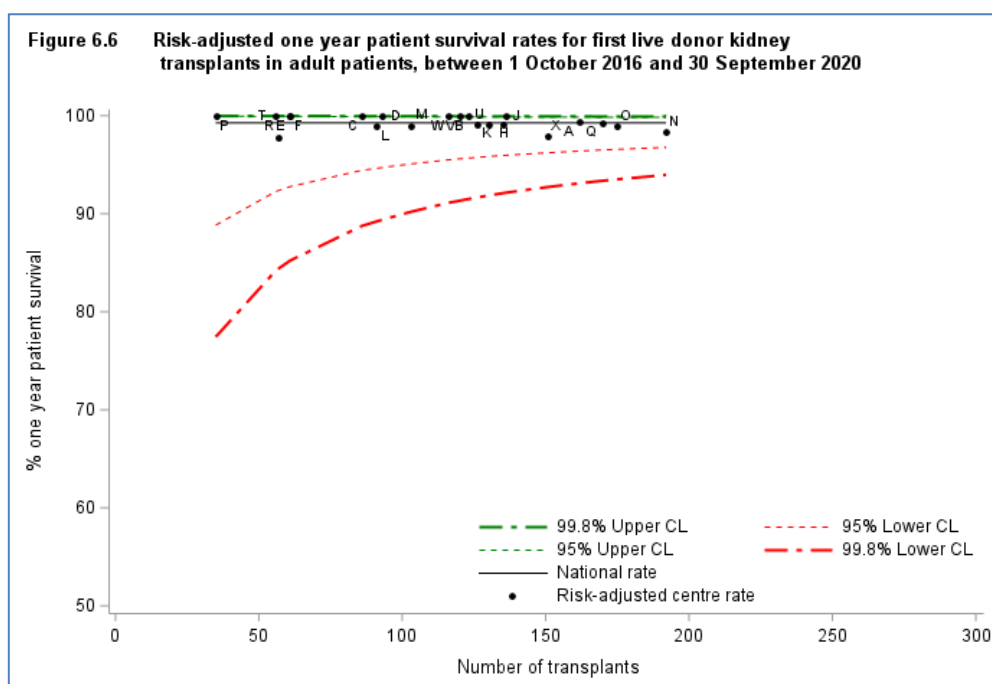
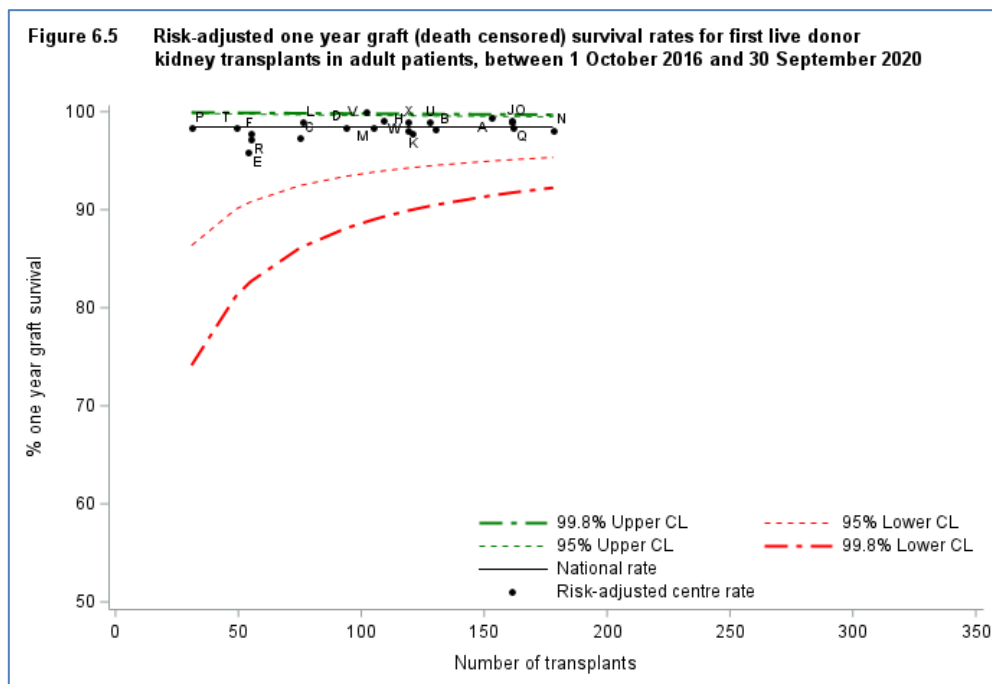
\* Includes transplants performed between 1 October 2016 - 30 September 2020

\*\* Includes transplants performed between 1 October 2012 - 30 September 2016

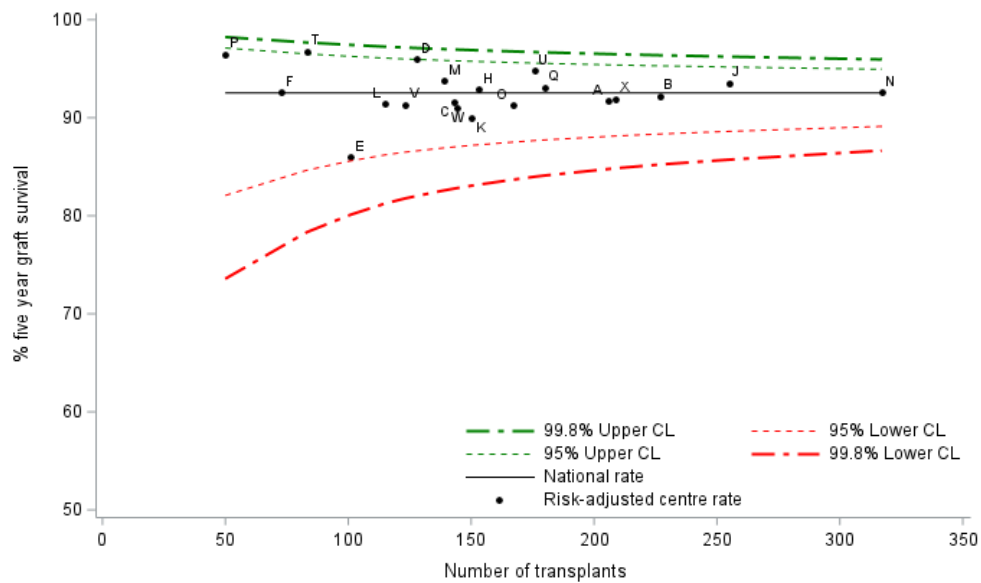
† Edinburgh and Portsmouth have been removed and 5 year survival for Plymouth has been removed due to follow up information being available for less than 75% of recipients

## 6.2 Living donor graft and patient survival

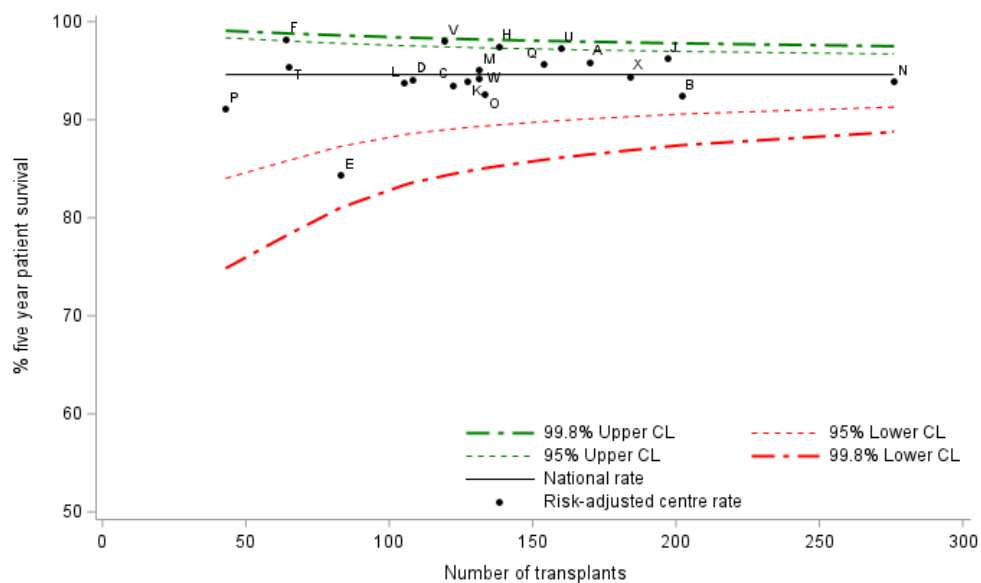
The [funnel plots](#) show that, for the most part, the centres lie within the [confidence limits](#). Some of the [funnel plots](#) show some centres to be above the upper 99.8% [confidence limit](#). This suggests that these centres may have survival rates that are considerably higher than the national rate. Centres can be identified by the information shown in **Table 6.2**. Note patients who received a previous deceased donor transplant are excluded from patient survival but included in graft survival. Centres with follow up information for less than 75% of patients have been excluded.



**Figure 6.7 Risk-adjusted five year graft (death censored) survival rates for first live donor kidney transplants in adult patients, between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2016**



**Figure 6.8 Risk-adjusted five year patient survival rates for first live donor kidney transplants in adult patients, between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2016**



**Table 6.2 One and five year first adult kidney-only graft and patient survival using kidneys from living donors**

Centre	Code	Kidney graft survival				Patient survival			
		One-year*		Five-year**		One-year*		Five-year**	
		%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Belfast	A	99	(97 - 100)	92	(86 - 96)	99	(97 - 100)	97	(93 - 99)
Birmingham	B	98	(95 - 100)	92	(87 - 95)	100	N/A	92	(88 - 96)
Bristol	C	97	(92 - 99)	92	(84 - 96)	100	N/A	94	(87 - 97)
Cambridge	D	98	(94 - 100)	96	(91 - 99)	100	N/A	94	(86 - 98)
Cardiff	E	96	(88 - 99)	86	(76 - 93)	100	N/A	85	(72 - 93)
Coventry	F	98	(92 - 100)	93	(83 - 98)	100	N/A	98	(90 - 100)
Glasgow	H	98	(94 - 100)	93	(88 - 97)	99	(95 - 100)	98	(93 - 100)
Guy's	J	99	(96 - 100)	94	(89 - 96)	100	N/A	96	(92 - 99)
Leeds	K	98	(94 - 99)	90	(84 - 95)	99	(95 - 100)	94	(88 - 98)
Leicester	L	99	(94 - 100)	91	(85 - 96)	99	(94 - 100)	94	(87 - 98)
Liverpool	M	98	(94 - 100)	94	(87 - 98)	99	(94 - 100)	96	(90 - 99)
Manchester	N	98	(95 - 99)	93	(89 - 95)	98	(95 - 100)	94	(91 - 97)
Newcastle	O	99	(97 - 100)	91	(86 - 95)	99	(96 - 100)	93	(87 - 96)
Nottingham	P	98	(90 - 100)	97	(87 - 100)	100	N/A	91	(78 - 98)
Oxford	Q	98	(96 - 100)	93	(88 - 96)	99	(96 - 100)	96	(91 - 98)
Plymouth	R	97	(90 - 100)	N/A†	N/A†	98	(88 - 100)	N/A†	N/A†
Sheffield	T	98	(91 - 100)	97	(91 - 99)	100	N/A	96	(84 - 99)
St George's	U	99	(96 - 100)	95	(90 - 98)	99	(95 - 100)	97	(93 - 99)
The Royal Free	V	100	N/A	92	(84 - 96)	100	N/A	98	(93 - 100)
The Royal London	W	99	(95 - 100)	91	(85 - 95)	100	N/A	94	(88 - 98)
WLRTC	X	99	(96 - 100)	92	(87 - 95)	98	(94 - 100)	95	(90 - 97)
<b>UK</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>(98 - 99)</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>(91 - 93)</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>(99 - 100)</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>(94 - 95)</b>

	Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit
	Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
	Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit
	Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit

\* Includes transplants performed between 1 October 2016 - 30 September 2020

\*\* Includes transplants performed between 1 October 2012 - 30 September 2016

† Edinburgh and Portsmouth have been removed and 5 year survival for Plymouth has been removed due to follow up information being available for less than 75% of recipients

# Appendix

## **A1 Glossary of terms**

### **ABO**

The most important human blood group system for transplantation is the ABO system. Every human being is of blood group O, A, B or AB, or of one of the minor variants of these four groups. ABO blood groups are present on other tissues and, unless special precautions are taken, a group A kidney transplanted to a group O patient will be rapidly rejected.

### **Active transplant list**

When a patient is registered for a transplant, they are registered on what is called the 'active' transplant list. This means that when a donor kidney becomes available, the patient is included among those who are matched against the donor to determine whether or not the kidney is suitable for them. It may sometimes be necessary to take a patient off the transplant list, either temporarily or permanently. This may be done, for example, if someone becomes too ill to receive a transplant. The patient is told about the decision to suspend them from the list and is informed whether the suspension is temporary or permanent. If a patient is suspended from the list, they are not included in the matching of any donor kidneys that become available.

### **Case mix**

The types of patients treated at a unit for a common condition. This can vary across units depending on the facilities available at the unit as well as the types of people in the catchment area of the unit. The definition of what type of patient a person is depends on the patient characteristics that influence the outcome of the treatment. For example the case mix for patients registered for a kidney transplant is defined in terms of various factors such as the blood group, tissue type and age of the patient. These factors have an influence on the chance of a patient receiving a transplant.

### **Confidence interval (CI)**

When an estimate of a quantity such as a survival rate is obtained from data, the value of the estimate depends on the set of patients whose data were used. If, by chance, data from a different set of patients had been used, the value of the estimate may have been different. There is therefore some uncertainty linked with any estimate. A confidence interval is a range of values whose width gives an indication of the uncertainty or precision of an estimate. The number of transplants or patients analysed influences the width of a confidence interval. Smaller data sets tend to lead to wider confidence intervals compared to larger data sets. Estimates from larger data sets are therefore more precise than those from smaller data sets. Confidence intervals are calculated with a stated probability, usually 95%. We then say that there is a 95% chance that the confidence interval includes the true value of the quantity we wish to estimate.

### **Confidence limit**

The upper and lower bounds of a [confidence interval](#).

### **Cox Proportional Hazards model**

A statistical model that relates the instantaneous risk (hazard) of an event occurring at a given time point to the [risk factors](#) that influence the length of time it takes for the event to occur. This model can be used to compare the hazard of an event of interest, such as graft failure or patient death, across different groups of patients.

**Cross-match**

A cross-match is a test for patient antibodies against donor antigens. A positive cross-match shows that the donor and patient are incompatible. A negative cross-match means there is no reaction between donor and patient and that the transplant may proceed.

**Donor after brain death (DBD)**

Donation after brainstem death means donation which takes place following the diagnosis of death using neurological criteria.

**Donor after circulatory death (DCD)**

Donation after circulatory death means donation which takes place following the diagnosis of death using circulatory criteria.

**Funnel plot**

A graphical method that shows how consistent the survival rates of the different transplant units are compared to the national rate. The graph shows for each unit, a survival rate plotted against the number of transplants undertaken, with the national rate and [confidence limits](#) around this national rate superimposed. In this report, 95% and 99.8% [confidence limits](#) were used. Units that lie within the [confidence limits](#) have survival rates that are statistically consistent with the national rate. When a unit is close to or outside the limits, this is an indication that the centre may have a rate that is considerably different from the national rate.

**Graft survival rate**

The percentage of patients whose grafts are still functioning. This is usually specified for a given time period after transplant. For example, a five-year transplant survival rate is the percentage of transplants still functioning five years after transplant.

**HLA mismatch**

Human Leucocyte Antigens (HLA) are carried on many cells in the body and the immune system can distinguish between those that can be recognised as 'self' (belonging to you or identical to your own) and those that can be recognised as 'nonself'. The normal response of the immune system is to attack foreign/non-self material by producing antibodies against the foreign material. This is one of the mechanisms that provide protection against infection. This is unfortunate from the point of view of transplantation as the immune system will see the graft as just another 'infection' to be destroyed, produce antibodies against the graft and rejection of the grafted organ will take place. To help overcome this response, it is recognised that 'matching' the recipient and donor on the basis of HLA (and blood group) reduces the chances of acute rejection and, with the added use of immunosuppressive drugs, very much improves the chances of graft survival. 'Matching' refers to the similarity of the recipient HLA type and donor HLA type. HLA mismatch refers to the number of mismatches between the donor and the recipient at the A, B and DR (HLA) loci. There can only be a total of two mismatches at each locus. For example, an HLA mismatch value of 000, means that the donor and recipient are identical at all three loci, while an HLA mismatch value of 210 means that the donor and recipient differ completely at the A locus, are partly the same at the B locus and are identical at the DR locus.

**Inter-quartile range**

The values between which the middle 50% of the data fall. The lower boundary is the lower quartile, the upper boundary the upper quartile.

**Kaplan-Meier method**

A method that allows patients with incomplete follow-up information to be included in estimating survival rates. For example, in a cohort for estimating one year [patient survival rates](#), a patient was followed up for only nine months before they relocated. If we calculated a crude survival estimate using the number of patients who survived for at least a year, this patient would have to be excluded as it is not known whether or not the patient was still alive at one year after transplant. The Kaplan-Meier method allows information about such patients to be used for the length of time that they are followed-up, when this information would otherwise be discarded. Such instances of incomplete follow-up are not uncommon and the Kaplan-Meier method allows the computation of estimates that are more meaningful in these cases.

**Live donor**

A donor who is a living person and who is usually, but not always, a relative of the transplant patient. For example, a parent may donate one of their kidneys to their child.

**Median**

The midpoint in a series of numbers, so that half the data values are larger than the median, and half are smaller.

**Multi-organ transplant**

A transplant in which the patient receives more than one organ. For example, a patient may undergo a transplant of a kidney and liver.

**National Kidney Allocation Scheme**

A nationally agreed set of rules for sharing and allocating kidneys for transplant between transplant centres in the UK. The scheme is administered by NHS Blood and Transplant.

**Patient survival rate**

The percentage of patients who are still alive (whether the graft is still functioning or not). This is usually specified for a given time period after transplant. For example, a five-year patient survival rate is the percentage of patients who are still alive five years after their first transplant.

**p value**

In the context of comparing survival rates across centres, the p value is the probability that the differences observed in the rates across centres occurred by chance. As this is a probability, it takes values between 0 and 1. If the p value is small, say less than 0.05, this implies that the differences are unlikely to be due to chance and there may be some identifiable cause for these differences. If the p value is large, say greater than 0.1, then it is quite likely that any differences seen are due to chance.

**Pre-emptive**

Patients that are placed on the kidney transplant list or receive a transplant prior to the need for dialysis are termed as pre-emptive. Patients listed pre-emptively will usually require dialysis within six months of being placed on the transplant list.

**Risk-adjusted survival rate**

Some transplants have a higher chance than others of failing at any given time. The differences in expected survival times arise due to differences in certain factors, the [risk factors](#), among patients. A risk-adjusted survival rate for a centre is the expected survival rate for that centre given the [case mix](#) of their patients. Adjusting for [case mix](#) in estimating centre-specific survival rates allows valid comparison of these rates across centres and to the national rate.

**Risk factors**

These are the characteristics of a patient, transplant or donor that influence the length of time that a graft is likely to function or a patient is likely to survive following a transplant. For example, when all else is equal, a transplant from a younger donor is expected to survive longer than that from an older donor and so donor age is a risk factor.

**Unadjusted survival rate**

Unadjusted survival rates do not take account of [risk factors](#) and are based only on the number of transplants at a given centre and the number and timing of those that fail within the post-transplant period of interest. In this case, unlike for [risk-adjusted rates](#), all transplants are assumed to be equally likely to fail at any given time. However, some centres may have lower unadjusted survival rates than others simply because they tend to undertake transplants that have increased risks of failure. Comparison of unadjusted survival rates across centres and to the national rate is therefore inappropriate.

## A2 Statistical methodology and risk-adjustment for survival rate estimation

[Unadjusted](#) and [risk-adjusted](#) estimates of [patient](#) and [graft survival](#) are given for each centre. [Unadjusted rates](#) give an estimate of what the survival rate at a centre is, assuming that all patients at the centre have the same chance of surviving a given length of time after transplant. In reality, patients differ and a [risk-adjusted rate](#) that allows for these differences would give a more meaningful estimate of survival.

### Computing unadjusted survival rates

[Unadjusted survival rates](#) were calculated using the [Kaplan-Meier method](#), which allows patients with incomplete follow-up information to be included in the computation. For example, in a cohort for estimating one-year [patient survival rates](#), a patient was followed up for only nine months before they relocated. If we calculated a crude survival estimate using the number of patients who survived for at least a year, this patient would have to be excluded, as it is not known whether or not the patient was still alive one year after transplant. The [Kaplan-Meier method](#) allows information about such patients to be used for the length of time that they are followed-up, when this information would otherwise be discarded. Such instances of incomplete follow-up are not uncommon in the analysis of survival data and the [Kaplan-Meier method](#) therefore allows the computation of survival estimates that are more meaningful.

### Computing risk-adjusted survival rates

A [risk-adjusted survival rate](#) is an estimate of what the survival rate at a centre would have been if they had had the same mix of patients as that seen nationally. The [risk-adjusted rate](#) therefore presents estimates in which differences in patient mix across centres have been removed as much as possible. For that reason, it is valid to only compare centres using risk-adjusted rather than unadjusted rates, as differences among the latter can be attributed to differences in patient mix.

[Risk-adjusted survival estimates](#) were obtained through indirect standardisation. A [Cox Proportional Hazards model](#) was used to determine the probability of survival for each patient based on their individual risk factor values. The sum of these probabilities for all patients at a centre gives the number, E, of patients or grafts expected to survive at least one year or five years after transplant at that centre. The number of patients who actually survive the given time period is given by O. The [risk-adjusted estimate](#) is then calculated by multiplying the ratio O/E by the overall unadjusted survival rate across all centres. The risk-adjustment models used were based on results from previous studies that looked at factors affecting the survival rates of interest. The factors included in the models are shown in the table below.

## Risk adjustment factors

### Adult patient transplants

#### First transplants from deceased donors

1 year graft survival	Donor age, donor type, donor cause of death, recipient age, waiting time to transplant, primary renal disease, HLA mismatch group, cold ischaemic time*, recipient ethnicity
1 year patient survival	Donor age, recipient age, waiting time to transplant, primary renal disease, HLA mismatch group, cold ischaemic time*
5 year graft survival	Graft year, donor age, donor type, donor cause of death, recipient age, waiting time to transplant, primary renal disease, HLA mismatch group, recipient ethnicity
5 year patient survival	Graft year, donor age, recipient age, waiting time to transplant, primary renal disease

#### Transplants from live donors

1 year graft survival	Donor age, recipient age, primary renal disease, number of HLA mismatches
1 year patient survival	Recipient age
5 year graft survival	Graft year, donor age, recipient age, primary renal disease, number of HLA mismatches
5 year patient survival	Recipient age, primary renal disease

\*Time between retrieval of kidney from the donor and time of transplant in the patient.

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