



Summary of Organ Utilisation Group Meeting, 4th November 2021

The Chair welcomed members to the third meeting of the Organ Utilisation Group (OUG) and introduced Maria Nyberg, representing the Department of Health and Social Care.

The focus of the meeting would be on:

- (i) hearing feedback from stakeholder engagements.
- (ii) considering the responses from the Online Call for Evidence.
- (iii) advising on what the emerging themes and principles are of the evidence gathered.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1. Subgroup Meeting Updates

Systems Architecture & Data Handling, Standards and the Commissioning subgroups all had their first meeting, with the Workforce subgroup first meeting upcoming. The following points were discussed by the subgroups:

- Systems Architecture & Data Handling
 - Drew key themes around data
 - Accuracy, completeness, accessibility, and standardisation
 - Timeliness (best organ at right time) is key part of discussions
 - Mapping exercise of the recipient pathway and looking at data need
 - Found information gaps to fill
- Commissioning
 - Looked at areas working well along with opportunities
 - Acknowledged integration is a challenge
 - Integrating primary care and the rest of the pathway
 - Key theme emerged around equity of access
 - Another Key theme was around technology and innovation
 - Understand the end-to-end pathway and focus commissioning around that
- Standards
 - Discussed potential overlap with commissioning
 - Discussed protocols that already exist
 - Clinical guidelines
 - Commissioning policies
 - Service specifications
 - Assessment process has been identified as a key theme for commissioning
 - Timeliness & equity of assessment
 - Access to resources
 - Access to ancillary services
 - Follow up for patients is another key theme
 - Possibility to explore young person support

2. Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Discussed the Stakeholder Workshop and the positive feedback received. Plan to carry out a Stakeholder Forum to manage suggestions within the scope.

Stakeholder engagement, such as OUG site visits and the Online Call for Evidence all presented and discussed.

- Site Visits
 - 7 sites were visited so far across England, with 2 more planned before the end of the calendar year
 - Presented the rationale and context from the group
 - Sites presented on their successes and challenges and have engaged in an open discussion about this
- Call for Evidence
 - 93 separate responses (107 challenges and 73 opportunities), with widespread coverage across the UK
 - Most prevalent challenges were those surrounding Workforce
 - Most prevalent opportunities were Machine Perfusion / Novel Technology & Data Provision

3. Emerging Themes and Principles

Members discussed the emerging themes and principles that arose from the evidence accumulated thus far from the OUG. The following themes were raised:

- Systems to be in place to increase risk appetite
- Standards for end-to-end pathway and access to this pathway
- Workforce resources to encourage the retention and recruitment of staff
- Board ownership through the introduction of KPIs
- Equity of access through the simplification and standardisation of commissioning
- Machine perfusion as an emerging field that requires more research
- Education and learning from COVID – educating both patients and staff
- Focus on social and psychological patient support
- Encourage more collaboration across centres – one of the key takeaways after COVID
- Culture and improving ownership through the standardisation of pathways
- Looking at the possibility of KPIs for transplantation and creating fixed standards
- Potential for virtual assessment and how technology could manage this to reduce travel and waiting times for patients

4. Gap Analysis

It was suggested that the OUG engage more with the following:

- Physicians and Paediatricians
- Researchers in organ assessment
- Care Quality Commission
- Wales and the Welsh Transplant Group
- Donor Families (engagement with Donor Family Network was ongoing)
- Living Donation

Next steps

Next steps were agreed as:

- Secretariat to facilitate more with the groups that we wish to hear more from, such as with Donor Families and other patient groups
- Secretariat to continue support with the ongoing work of subgroups
- Secretariat to start drafting agenda, invites etc for the Stakeholder Forum
- Date of next meeting: 10th December