

**Retrieval Advisory Group,  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Increasing the Number of Organs Available for Research (INOAR)**

**1. Status – Public**

**2. Executive Summary**

2.1 On the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 the INOAR project ‘went live’. SNODs in QUOD-licensed hospitals in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and all hospitals in Scotland now discuss the opportunity with donor families to consent or provide authorisation to the removal and storage of the Heart, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas for research.

2.2 Data from the INOAR project had been collected and analysed from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2022. A total of 86 organs (Hearts, Lungs and Diabetic Pancreas) have been removed for research.

**3. Action Requested**

3.1 Note the data pertaining to INOAR organs offered, accepted and removed to date.

3.2 Note the options and actions in progress to increase the acceptance and removal of hearts for research studies.

**4. Background**

4.1 Utilising the Liverpool Research HTA Licence to remove organs for research has increased the number of organs available for research.

4.2 In addition, the following benefits are achieved:

- Reduction in the complexities of the consent process for families
- Reduction in the complexities of the consent process for SNODS
- A more consistent and transparent research allocation system
- Reduction in the complexities for researchers by reducing the requirement for specific HTA licences

**5. Update**

5.3 Heart acceptance and removal remains a concern since the launch of INOAR.

5.4 Some researchers report that hearts that have not been perfused with insitu preservation solution are not suitable for their research studies, and are therefore not able to accept hearts for research.

5.5 Researchers report that their preference is for perfused and packaged hearts retrieved by the cardiothoracic NORs team (same standard as hearts removed for the purposes of transplantation).

5.6 3 Options have been considered to increase the number of perfused and packaged hearts removed for research via INOAR.

Option 1.	
Abdominal NORs teams are trained to perfuse and package hearts removed for research studies in the absence of a CT NORs team. However the skill set includes the use of DLP cannula in the aortic arch (used in NRP).	A pilot is planned for Cambridge and Edinburgh Abdominal NORs teams to be trained to perfuse and package hearts for research studies in the absence of a CT NORs team. It is envisaged this pilot will run for 3- 6 months and commence Spring/ Summer 2022.
Option 2.	
Implementation of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> offering point for INOAR when hearts accepted for transplant, unsuitable for valves are declined for transplant in the donor theatre on investigation/ inspection. Cardiothoracic NORs in attendance.	HUB operations are in principle supportive of the implementation of a 2 <sup>nd</sup> offering point, however changes to process/ procedures would need to be prioritised via the OTDT Business Transition Meeting. Consensus appears to be to measure the impact of Option 1. and if this intervention does not meet the number of hearts to explore a 2 <sup>nd</sup> offering point.
Option 3.	
Researchers +/- NORs off duty surgeon attend donor theatre to perfuse and package heart removed for research study.	Early discussions have raised a number of questions around commissioning, licencing and questions referring to indemnity. Therefore, further discussion will be need before we can take this option forward.

5.4 INOAR organs offered, accepted and removed 1<sup>st</sup> February – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, QUOD Hospitals (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) and Scotland. Please see Appendix 1. for breakdown by organ type

<b>INOAR Organs</b>	Offered	Accepted	Accepted/ Removed	Accepted/ Not Removed
February	14	6	4	2
March	25	9	2	7
April	24	10	7	3
May	28	15	9	6
June	33	16	11	5
July	14	10	7	3
August	20	9	5	4
September	15	12	9	3
October	27	11	8	3
November	24	13	7	6
December	34	8	5	3
January	22	7	5	2

February	22	8	7	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>48</b>

## Author

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## Appendix 1.

INOAR organs by organ type offered, accepted and removed 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – 28th February 2022.

QUOD Hospitals (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) and Scotland.

<b>INOAR Hearts</b>	Offered	Accepted	Accepted/ Removed	Accepted/ Not Removed
February	8	1	0	1
March	13	1	0	1
April	14	2	0	2
May	16	6	5	1
June	18	7	5	2
July	6	3	2	1
August	8	2	1	1
September	4	1	1	0
October	11	1	1	0
November	11	3	1	2
December	18	3	3	0
January	10	1	1	0
February	13	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>INOAR Lungs</b>	Offered	Accepted	Accepted/ Removed	Accepted/ Not Removed
February	6	5	4	1
March	11	7	1	6
April	7	5	4	1
May	8	6	3	3
June	7	5	3	2
July	4	4	2	2
August	9	4	2	2
September	3	3	1	2
October	6	4	4	0
November	9	7	3	4
December	9	2	0	2
January	7	4	2	2

February	7	4	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>

<b><i>INOAR Diabetic Pancreas</i></b>	Offered	Accepted	Accepted/ Removed	Accepted/ Not Removed
February	0	0	0	0
March	1	1	1	0
April	3	3	3	0
May	4	3	1	2
June	8	4	3	1
July	4	3	3	0
August	3	3	2	1
September	8	8	7	1
October	10	6	3	3
November	4	3	3	0
December	7	3	2	1
January	5	2	2	0
February	2	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>