

## **NHS BLOOD & TRANSPLANT**

### **ELECTIVE PATIENT REGISTRATION**

#### **RESOLVING LONG STANDING ISSUES WITH THE MERGING OF UNACCEPTABLE ANTIGENS AT REGISTRATION WITH NHSBT**

##### **BACKGROUND**

There is a known issue with kidney, pancreas, and intestinal registrations. Patients that have been previously registered with NHSBT with one or more unacceptable antigens automatically have these antigens 'merged' into any subsequent registration in a manner that is opaque to the registering tissue typing laboratory. This can mean that a patient can be registered with unacceptable antigens not specified by the registering laboratory without their knowledge.

This can lead to patients being inappropriately excluded at the time of generating a matching run and therefore missing offers.

This issue is a long-standing one and was originally implemented to ensure that patients are not re-registered without the unacceptable antigens they have been previously registered with. However, it has caused several cases of patient disadvantage due to missed offers. In 2018 a communication was sent to transplant centre H&I laboratories asking them to ensure that they reviewed every registration record after registration. In 2020 ODT Hub Information Services developed an automated report that notifies registering transplant centres and tissue typing laboratories when it is likely that unacceptable antigens had been merged into a re-registration. Both measures reduce the risk likelihood of patient disadvantage as a result of the behaviour of the National Transplant Database application (NTxD) but do not eliminate it.

Due to ongoing concerns around the process, it has recently been reviewed by colleagues from ODT Hub Information Services, Quality Assurance, Clinical Governance and Digital, Data Technology Services (DDTS) and a proposed solution was identified.

This proposal was further developed in conjunction with the Chief Scientific Officer, OTDT and was circulated to Heads of H&I Laboratories for feedback in June 2021.

##### **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that a change is made to ODT Online/NTxD and the patient registration process to ensure that H&I laboratories are notified by ODT Hub Information Services when a patient is re-listed without the unacceptable antigens that were present in a previous registration. This change would affect only those patients that are transferring or re-registering and would not adversely impact the timescales for registration. The proposed process is as follows:

1. Registration completed using ODT Online and submitted as per current process
2. If the previous registration contains one or more unacceptable antigens that are not present in the re-registration this will be identified by NTxD before the registration is activated.

ODT Hub Information services will phone the registering laboratory and inform them that the previous registration had unacceptable antigens that are not present in the re-registration. H&I colleagues can either:

- a. Confirm that the re-registration is correct as submitted. ODT Hub Information Services will activate the re-registration following receipt of written confirmation following the call.
  - b. Elect to add the missing unacceptable antigen(s) to the re-registration and re-submit the re-registration to ODT Hub Information Services
3. If the re-registration contains all the unacceptable antigens present on the previous registration then the registration will be activated as per the current process

**DECISION**

KAG are asked to approve implementation of the above proposal.

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