



Proposal to Improve Eye Donation Scotland: OTDT

Introduction

Eye donation across the UK has seen significant decline leading to a reduction in the availability of eye products for transplantation. This has increased the waiting time for many potential recipients and has led to the importing of corneas from overseas to meet the demand. In Scotland there are three identified eye donation pathways between Organ Tissue Donation Transplantation (OTDT) and Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS). This increases complexity around roles and responsibilities and how best to make improvements with limited resources and capacity.

Method

A proposal was put forward to increase eye donation at two of the busiest hospitals in Scotland. A snapshot audit indicated there is the potential to provide over 150 eye donors a year which would be a 200% increase from last year. The specialist nurse (SN) organ donation on one site reviews the deaths in the hospital overnight and at the other site the local Mortuary staff help identify potential eye donors. Both those who have registered a decision to donate (expressed) or meet deemed criteria are considered. The SN will source bloods from the lab, refer to the National Referral Centre, contact SNBTS or local hospital staff to seek retriever availability before any approach to the family.

Results

The proposal was accepted and initial started on one site and has recently expanded to the second site. This proposal does not require busy healthcare staff in acute settings to refer which has been increasing difficult during and after the pandemic. The number of cases associated with non-retrieval should be minimal, limited impact with On Call activity and provides more of the SN team with exposure to family approach conversations. So far both sites have successfully proved the concept works by retrieving eyes from 1 donor each to date.

Discussion

The OTDT Strategy 2030 and Scotland Plan 2021-2026 strives to maximise eye donation potential which is the overarching aim of this proposal and can readily be adapted for consideration within UK and wider with international donation communities.

"I remember my son saying how lovely it was, that his dad would be able to see the world through someone else's eyes"

DONOR FAMILY