

Pre-neurological death testing (NDT) reference guide to reduce the risk of delay when diagnosing neurological death

Shaun Miller-Jones MSc (lead) & Victoria Delacruz (supporting) to conduct the project
Rosanna Chávez & Roisin Hollinger
SNODs at University Hospital Bristol and Weston Foundation Trust

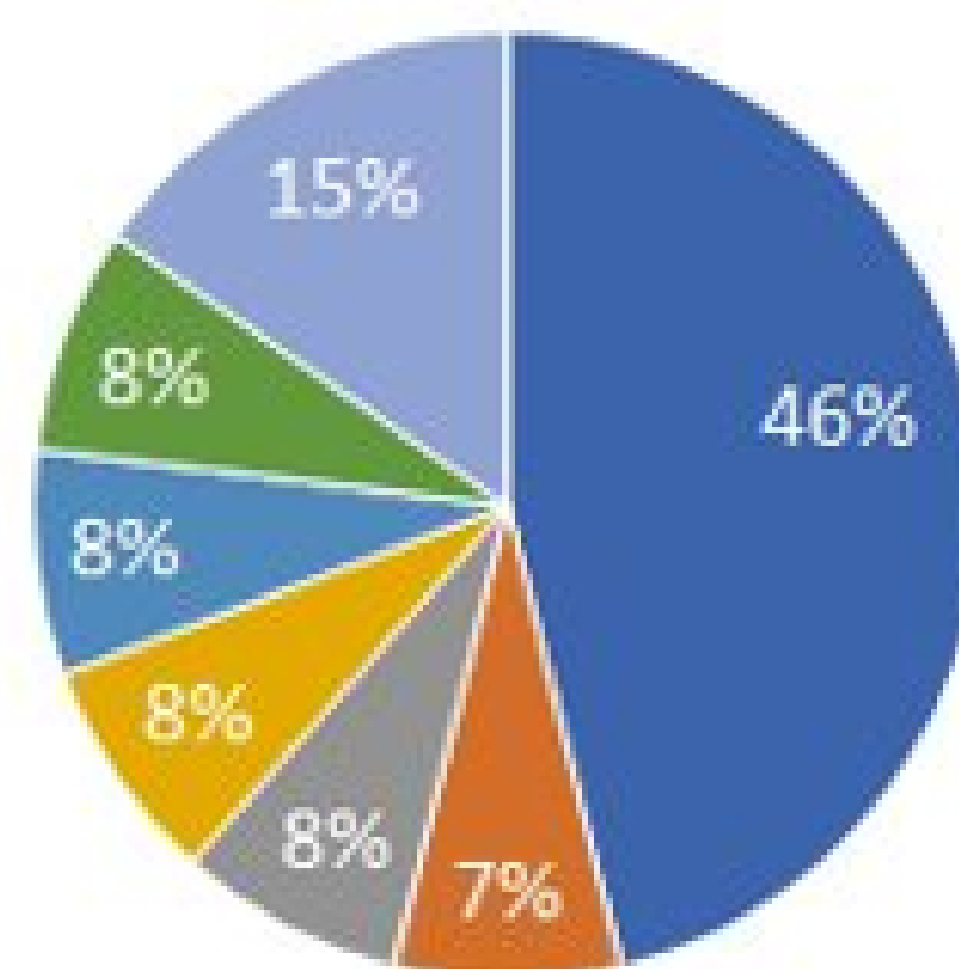
Identifying the need for a guide

- **Upward trend** where **NDT** was being **delayed** due to potentially **avoidable** reasons became apparent in our region
- **43.3%** of DBD cases had a **delay to NDT** (over a six-month period in the South-West region)
- **61.5%** of those delayed were due to **potentially avoidable** causes
- Aim is that a guide will enable **early identification of red flags** and **variances** in **electrolyte** parameters outlined by The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine on the NDT form encouraging time sensitive intervention and **minimising** the potential risk of **delays**

Method for designing and implementing

- Review of **data** - May - November 2022 to identify **specific delays** to NDT
- Decision to **develop** specific **pre-NDT guide** to be utilised in the 24hrs prior to planned NDT
- Initial draft presented to **TM's** and **RCLOD** for evaluation - necessary **amendments made**
- Decision to **implement** guide within the **Level 1 hospital** where SMJ & VD embedded
- **Trust logo** used to encourage **engagement** and **ownership**
- Guide **approved** by CLOD and clinical director for GICU
- **Published** within communication **newsletter**, daily safety **brief**, bedside **teaching**, monthly formal OD teaching and via ICU **OD link nurses**
- **Guide available** electronically on ICU's SharePoint and hardcopy stored in the NDT box

Causes of delays to neurological death testing



- Deranged electrolytes
- Electrolytes not tested prior to planned testing time
- Consultant unaware sedation had not been discontinued
- Haemodynamic instability
- Respiratory instability
- Ancillary testing
- Unit pressures

Data May – November 2022

- **47** Proceeding Donors
- **30** DBD Donors
- **13** Delays to NDT
- **43.3%** Of the total number of DBD Donors
- **61.5%** Potentially avoidable delays with the use of the pre-NDT

Shaun & Tori presenting the Guide at Congress in Edinburgh 2023

Next steps

- **Feedback** form integrated onto guide via QR code will enable **6- & 12-month evaluation** to establish if there has had a benefit in minimising delays to NDT
- **Plan** to train out and **disseminate** to SNOD colleagues within the **South-West region**

