

# Maximising donation potential in ICU: Education in critical care



Blood and Transplant

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## Introduction

During the last couple of years there were a couple of cases where donation opportunities were not maximised. We recognised a need to go back to basics in the utilisation of embedded time and the importance of education in supporting our local practices. We have to think carefully how we target our resources to achieve the greatest effect while also being mindful of the considerable pressure on staff.

## Methods

We created a survey to question the confidence, comfort and knowledge of staff in the process for organ and tissue donation. The survey was sent to all GHNHSFT Critical Care staff of which 25 responded from the groups

## Results

### Organ Donation

- 88% of staff were comfortable in referring.
- 84% were confident in when to refer.
- 84% were confident in how to refer.
- 100% of staff surveyed believe the SNOD should be present during the approach conversation.

When questioned when would you refer for organ donation 96% of respondents mentioned the 2 main triggers of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance.

### Tissue Donation

- 72% of staff always considered tissue donation.
- 98% responded referral is the responsibility of a nurse, interestingly 60% respondents thought it was also a role for a doctor.
- 76% were confident in completing the electronic referral form.
- 88% were comfortable having a conversation with relatives and providing the tissue donation leaflet.

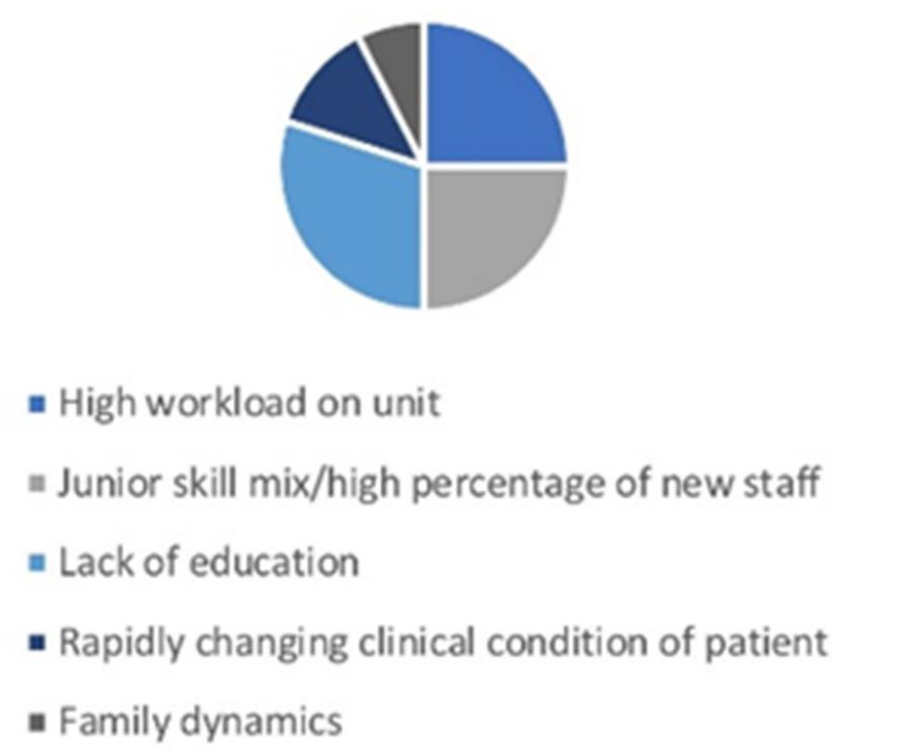


Figure 1. Reasons for late/missed organ & tissue referrals

## Discussion

The survey gives us an invaluable snapshot of the department of critical cares staff basic knowledge, confidence and comfort levels.

Factors that influenced timely referral for donation consideration were:

- high turnover in staff and increased demands
- rapidly changing clinical situation of patients
- the deteriorating patients
- staff having less experience identifying and reacting to donation potential

The gap analysis has identified key areas of focus

- training for the medical team
- targeted training for the senior nursing staff
- annual updates
- regularly shorter training on the unit
- sharing of case studies and scenarios.

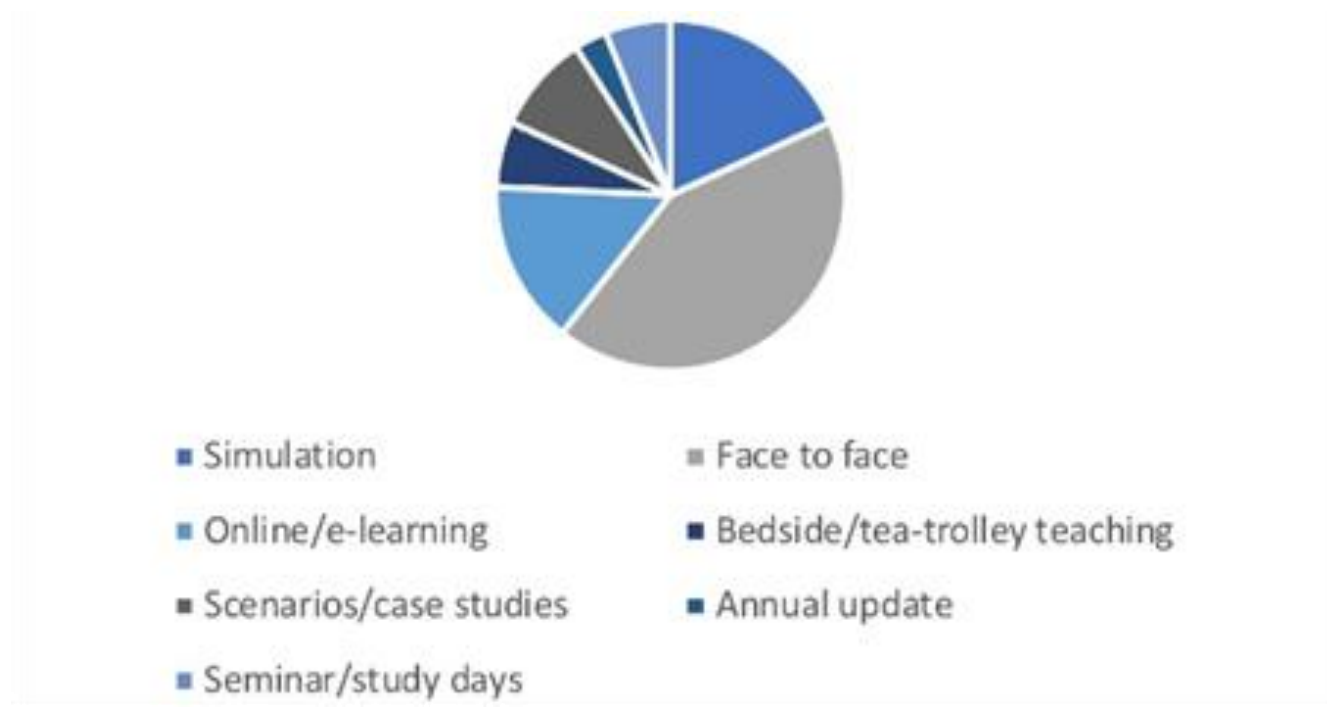


Figure 2. Staff preferences for delivery of future organ and tissue donation education

Staff identified a wide mix of training types and as a team we are passionate about being able to offer a range of resources (see figure 2). Having a variety of training resources benefits the staff and ultimately the patient's pathways. There are also plans to develop more e-learning opportunities to go alongside the bespoke tissue donation package we already have.

## Conclusion

The gap analysis highlighted established good practice but also gaps in knowledge and training. With this evidence we are creating a targeted education programme for 2023-2024. The preference of already established training methods has made evident the continuous requirement to work with new and existing staff of all levels.