



**NHSBT BOARD
25 JULY 2023
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE**

Donation and Transplantation Plan for Scotland: 2021-2026

Recommendations from the Scottish plan continue to be taken forward by three working groups. In addition, SNBTS are leading on the actions in relation to tissue donation.

The working group leading on Transplant Recipient Support and Aftercare are finalising a patient survey which is expected to launch later this year to capture an up-to-date picture of patients' views on transplant services in Scotland.

In addition to this the group has sent out a short survey to transplant centres and wider clinical teams in Scottish NHS Boards to capture the use of telemedicine and remote consultations with transplant patients.

The group looking at whether clinicians have the right expertise to support patients locally have organised a series of focus groups with representatives from each of the services to investigate how NHS doctors in secondary care can be supported to look after patients, post-transplant.

Transplant Research Manager

A part-time Scottish Research Transplant Manager has now been appointed to help the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group to define the landscape of research in Scotland and to lead a Scottish Transplant Research Network.

Living Kidney Donation – REACH Transplant

The Renal Education and Choices at Home (REACH Transplant) Programme Lead and five Nurse Specialists are now in post. The REACH Transplant initiative aims to ensure that all patients who may benefit from a kidney transplant are supported in exploring all options for a living donor transplant in their own home and to encourage open discussion with families and with close friends about choices.

Coming from a range of renal and transplant nursing backgrounds, induction and education has been ongoing to support the initiation of each renal unit's new REACH Transplant service. This has included a series of virtual study days, to which key professionals from Scotland's transplant centres and referring centres have contributed. An in-person study day/meeting took place in June 2023 in Glasgow.

Eye Donation

The clinical demand for corneal transplants is significantly higher than the eye donation rate both in Scotland and across the UK. This is mainly as a result of a low rate of eye donation, with the number of eye donors being progressed at present being low. The reasons for this are multi-factorial including a relatively high deferral rate for eye donation due to underlying medical conditions and also operational factors that impact ability to retrieve.

During the last financial year (April 2022 – March 2023) SNBTS progressed the retrieval of 74 eyes from 37 donors; of these 19 donors donated eyes only with the remaining 18 donating eyes after also donating organs and/or other tissue products.

A significant amount of work is currently being done by both SNBTS and NHSBT to identify how best to significantly improve the eye donation rate in Scotland. The options that are being assessed, and where appropriate progressed, include raising awareness about eye donation in general with the various hospitals; engaging with hospices to allow potential eye donors to start being referred from the hospices and engaging with ophthalmology colleagues to increase the retrieval resource available.

Human Tissue Authority Contract

The Scottish Government and the Human Tissue Authority have agreed to sign a further contract for a three year period.

NHS Organ Donor Register figures

As of 4 June 2023, over half of the population of Scotland (57%) have recorded their donation decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. Of this total, 53.7% have recorded a decision to be a donor, with 3.3% choosing to opt out.

**Scottish Government
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