

Responses to the OUG recommendations from the Lung Transplant community

Dr J Parmar
Chair CTAG Lung

Theme 1: placing the patient at the heart of the service

- The lung transplant community could strengthen the patient voice by separating the CTAG patient group into two separate Lung and Heart focussed groups.
- One of the key focuses of this group would be ensuring there is equity of access and opportunity of a transplant.
- The NIHR BRTU theme 6 focusses on the development of PROM's and PREM's and the lung transplant community has been very active in embracing this initiative.

Theme 2 – an operational infrastructure that maximises transplant potential.

- The fragility of the national lung transplant service requires significant multi-agency approach to ensure that the future service is world class and sustainable.
 - A standardised national template for donor declines meeting will be established to ensure consistency across the national service. This template will include expected utilisation rates and will need support to ensure that the data is accurate and granular enough to understand decision making.
- The National Service Specification will be refreshed with particular focus on providing transparency over decision making within suggested timelines (1 month to assessment, 18 week's decision to listing).
- It will also need to encompass future workforce planning and many of the improvements outlined in this report.
- Each transplant centre must support patients in understanding and engaging with the information provided, as highlighted in OUG recommendation 1.
- All lung transplant units will form collaborative relationships with neighbouring units to ensure that the service becomes more sustainable.
- Each centre will be asked to develop workforce templates for future staffing.
- The lung transplant community welcomes the proposed cardiothoracic review and would like to see this as a mechanism for delivering a world class sustainable service.

Theme 3: creating a sustainable workforce that is fit for the future

- In line with the OUG recommendations each centre will be requested to develop a workforce plan that reflects a world class sustainable service. This document that projects the future needs of a high functioning service and there should be consistency across the service's workforce in line with service standards.

Theme 4: Data provision that informs decisions and drives improvements.

- The sharing of accurate and high-quality information is critical to ensure timely and informed decision making for both clinicians and patients. The early adoption of Transplant Path will help to improve many aspects of donor information. There needs to be considerable improvement in many other aspects of information sharing and the implementation of initiatives that hampers many aspects of service development.
- Ensuring that patients have access to current and detailed information, appropriate to the patients' needs, at all stages of the patient journey is vital to making properly informed decisions. The use of the national dashboard and the patient risk communicator should become mandatory.

Theme 5: Driving and supporting innovation

- The lung transplant community embraces the adoption of machine perfusion for the assessment and repair of donor lungs. It has already produced a nationally agreed framework for the operational implementation of an Assessment and Repair Centre (ARC) and has the technological components for delivery. Whilst an ARC will require investment, this opportunity holds great advantage given the rise in DCD donors and falling utilisation in this group, addressing this double jeopardy is key to the future of a world class service.
- Early donor management (scouting) has been demonstrated to be highly effective in delivering a greater number of organs and should be actively reconsidered as a priority for implementation. The role of virtual optimisation should be actively examined as this may provide a mechanism for early intervention.

Theme 6: delivering improvements through new strategic and commissioning frameworks.

- The lung transplant community is very supportive of a more seamless commissioning process with greater visibility of the financial arrangements, that impact on patient care.
- We are keen to work with trust boards to develop a dashboard to allow readily accessible data to be provided in a timely manner for consideration at board level.