

Psychology and Social Work Update

1. Background

- 1.1 The CTPG Chair worked with the Psychological Association for Cardiothoracic Transplant (PACT) to undertake a detailed analysis of psychological need and provision.
- 1.2 Three specific pieces of work were undertaken, a patient survey, a review against current service standards and a psychology needs analysis.
- 1.3 The results were reported at the CTPG meeting in June 2022 and in summary psychology provision was shown to be insufficient in most centres. Many service standards were not being met and large numbers of patients were reporting that their psychological needs were not being met.
- 1.4 CTPG approved the recommendations, which including the setting of a new standard for psychology provision of 1WTE psychologist per 350 patients
- 1.5 At the last CTPG Heart meeting, centres were asked to review their psychology provision and consider immediate actions to increase resources. These could include the reallocation of resources from existing Trust budgets or seeking additional funding from local, hospital or national charities.

2. Updates

- 2.1 In February 2023 the DHSC published the report of the Organ Utilisation Group, Honouring the gift of donation: utilising organs for transplant.
- 2.2 The CTPG welcome the report and support the recommendations.
- 2.3 The report included reference to the CTPG psychology analysis and made specific recommendations that;

“Psychological and social care support must be available for patients both around the time of transplant and in follow-up. The annual review for patients on the waiting list must include a review of psychological and social care support requirements” (Recommendation 6).

- 2.4 The CTPG Chair is aware that some centres are actively pursuing increasing their provision of psychologists.

3. Social Work Provision

- 3.1 At the last CTPG meeting concerns were raised by patients and professionals about the disparity in provision of dedicated specialist social work support across the transplant centres.
- 3.2 It was agreed an audit of current provision would be undertaken. An audit form was developed by the CTPG Chair and the Cardiothoracic Transplant Social Work team in

Manchester. This was sent to the CTAG Lungs Chair on 2 April 2023 to circulate to all centre directors for completion.

3.3 To date (1 July 2023) 5 services have returned the audit; Papworth, Newcastle Adults, Newcastle Paeds, Glasgow and Manchester.

3.4 Audit forms from the following centre are outstanding; Birmingham, Harefield, GOSH and Sheffield

3.5 It is clear from the returns received so far that there is considerable variation in specialist social work provision between the centres.

3.6 Upon completion of the audit, it is recommended a national standard of minimum service provision is established and embedded into service specifications.

4. Summary

4.1 All English adult services are requested to undertake actions to increase their provision to a minimum of 1 trained psychologist per 350 patients.

4.2 Centre directors are reminded to complete and return the social work provision audit.