

## **NHSBT BOARD SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2023**

### **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.

### **Transplant Patient Survey**

A transplant patient survey opened on 25 September to capture an up-to-date picture of patients' views on transplant services in Scotland and will close on 29 December 2023. As well as an online version of the survey, it will be available in paper copy and in Easy read format and translated into six languages. As at 1 November, 256 responses to the survey have been received.

### **Living Kidney Donation**

The Annual Nephrologist/Living Kidney Donation Event will take place on 8 December 2023 in Stirling. All Scottish nephrologists, living kidney donor co-ordinators, living kidney recipient co-ordinators and REACH Transplant Nurse Specialists have been invited to attend.

One of the key aims of the Donation and Transplantation Action Plan for Scotland is consideration of a living kidney donor transplant as the first option for treatment. Therefore, a key focus of the agenda at this event will focus on 'Timely Living Kidney Donor Transplantation in Scotland' where attendees will consider and discuss perceived barriers to pre-emptive kidney transplant (both deceased and living donor) in Scotland.

### **Timely referral for consideration of transplantation**

One of the actions in the Plan is to increase organ transplantation rates in Scotland. It is important that all patients likely to benefit from transplantation are offered the opportunity and we are keen for transplant units, in partnership with NHS Boards and referring clinicians, to continue to proactively identify and discuss transplantation with any patient who may be eligible for and likely benefit from a transplant.

A short-life working group, set up to lead on this action, undertook a review of the current and projected need for referral to transplant units, and in particular looked at whether there were any significant variations in referral rates between NHS Boards.

The Co-chairs of the Scottish Donation & Transplant Group have now written to each NHS Board Medical Director setting out this information and requesting their support

to maintain awareness of the importance of timely referral for consideration of transplantation, when appropriate.

### **Transplant Research Manager**

Dr Angelica Cabello Araujo has been appointed as the new part-time Scottish Research Transplant Manager and took up post on 01 November 2023. Angelica will help the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group to define the landscape of research in Scotland and to lead a Scottish Transplant Research Network.

### **NHS Organ Donor Register figures**

As of 15 November 2023, over half of the population of Scotland (57.4%) have recorded their donation decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. Of this total, 54.1% have recorded a decision to be a donor, with 3.3% choosing to opt out.

**Scottish Government  
November 2023**