

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP
CHANGES TO FAST TRACK OFFERING

BACKGROUND

1. It was agreed at the CTAG Unit Director's telecon on 20 April 2015 that changes should be made to the current Fast Track offering process.
2. In addition, the Duty Office have also requested a change to the duration that a Fast Track offer can be considered for.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

3. Currently if more than one centre responds to a Fast Track offer within the allocated time, the organ is assigned to the patient at the top of the offering sequence for patients within these centres. It was agreed that this would be changed so that offers would be accepted and assigned on a 'first come, first served' basis. The accepting centre can select an urgent or non-urgent patient to transplant.
4. Centres currently have 30 minutes to respond to a Fast Track offer. This will be increased to 45 minutes in line with all other organs.

ACTIONS

5. Members are asked to read the associated changes to the heart allocation policies, as indicated below, so that they are aware of the forthcoming changes. The equivalent wording will be applied to the lung allocation policy.
6. Jenny Mehew will write to centre directors to inform them of when the change will be implemented.

ALLOCATION POLICY - HEART

Fast track offer scheme – offers from the UK and Republic of Ireland

Transplant centres may register with the ODT Duty Office to receive offers of hearts which are available at short notice from another centre in the UK. The scheme applies to hearts referred to NHSBT which are either to be removed within 90 minutes of the referral to NHSBT or already removed or in the process of removal. The scheme will operate as follows:

- Offers of hearts meeting the fast track offer scheme criteria will be made only to centres registered in the scheme
- Offers will be made by the ODT Duty Office by either simultaneous facsimile transmission or text message to pager/mobile phone of donor information
- Centres must respond by telephone to a fast track offer within 45 minutes of the offer if they wish to accept. The ODT Duty Office will not follow-up those centres that do not respond within this time

- Acceptance will be on a first come first served basis and may be for an urgent or non-urgent patient. Centres not responding will be deemed to have declined the offer
- Group 1 patients will be allocated organs before Group 2 patients. Centres accepting for Group 2 patients must wait until the 45 minutes have lapsed to ensure no centre is accepting for a Group 1 patient.
- After 45 minutes of receiving the referral, the ODT Duty Office will advise the offering centre of the outcome (or earlier when possible).

Fast track offer scheme – offers from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland

Transplant centres may register with the ODT Duty Office to receive offers of organs which are available from other centres in Europe. The Scheme will operate as follows:

- Offers of cardiothoracic organs meeting the fast track offer scheme criteria will be made only to centres registered in the scheme
- Offers will be made by the ODT Duty Office by either simultaneous facsimile transmission or text message to pager/mobile phone of donor information
- Acceptance will be on a first come first served basis and may be for an urgent or non-urgent patient. Centres not responding will be deemed to have declined the offer

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