

Introduction and Background to Peer Review – Initial Report for CTAG April 2015

After a number of false starts, what was almost a chance encounter with the NHS England Peer Programme team lead to a formal Peer Review of all the Cardiothoracic Transplant centres in March 2015.

Two one-day meetings were convened to develop a series of Measures, eventually numbering 23 in all, based on the Service Specifications. The version of Measures used for the Cardiothoracic Peer review is attached as an appendix.

In parallel, three teaching sessions, in London, Leeds and Manchester, trained a cadre of Reviewers. The review teams were multi-disciplinary, including surgeons, physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and managers.

Trusts were given 6 weeks to send responses to how they met the various measures and what steps were in place to remedy any shortfalls, and the documents produced were posted on a website.

Subsequently, all 7 centres (including Glasgow and Great Ormond Street) were visited in March 2015. NHSBT was represented at all the Reviews. The review team went over all the documents, testing the product against the Measures, then met with the transplant team for a couple of hours. Finally, a draft report was produced, and then initial feedback given to the centre. Final reports are currently with the various Trusts, who have a further two weeks to confirm factual accuracy. All the reports will be finalised by the end of May and published on the National Peer Review website - <http://www.nationalpeerreview.nhs.uk>.

All who took part in the process, be it as Reviewees or Reviewers found it to be rewarding. For example, Trusts were stimulated to update their documents and so review clinical pathways. Reviewers noted that there were things, often quite profound, to be learned from the other centres.