

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP**

LONG-WAITING URGENT HEART PATIENTS

BACKGROUND

- 1 The urgent heart scheme was implemented in 1999 to allow the sickest patients quicker access to donor hearts.
- 2 Almost seventeen years on, the number of patients on the urgent heart list continues to increase. Over the last year there were generally around 35 - 40 recipients (adult and paediatric) at any one time, with the maximum being as high as 52.
- 3 There is currently no restriction on the maximum duration that a patient can remain on the urgent heart list.
- 4 The median urgent waiting time for patients on the urgent heart list is 39 days (considering registrations over 2014 and 2015). However, there are occasional patients wait more than a year and a half on the list.

PROPOSAL

- 5 It is proposed that, when an urgent/super-urgent heart patient reaches six months of waiting time on the urgent heart list, the registering centre must provide an update to the CTAG Adjudication Panel justifying the patient's inclusion on the list.
- 6 Ideally, NHSBT should implement a system that will flag such cases to the registering centre 2 weeks before six months is up indicating that the update is required.
- 7 It will be the responsibility of the registering centre to prepare an update and submit an application to the CTAG Heart Adjudication Panel via the CTAG Chair (or Deputy) for the patient to remain on the urgent/super urgent list. In particular, a broad overview as to why the offers made during this period were declined.
- 8 The Adjudication panel will respond to the application within 72 hours and the CTAG Chair will notify the registering centre of the outcome. If decision is to support extension of super urgent/urgent listing, the Panel will also indicate when the next update is required.
- 9 The registering centre will need to provide the above evidence to the Duty Office for the patient to remain on the urgent/super urgent list.

Otherwise, the patient will be removed from the urgent/super-urgent waiting list at six months.

ACTION

- 10 Members are asked to review this proposal and comment.

Steven Tsui

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