

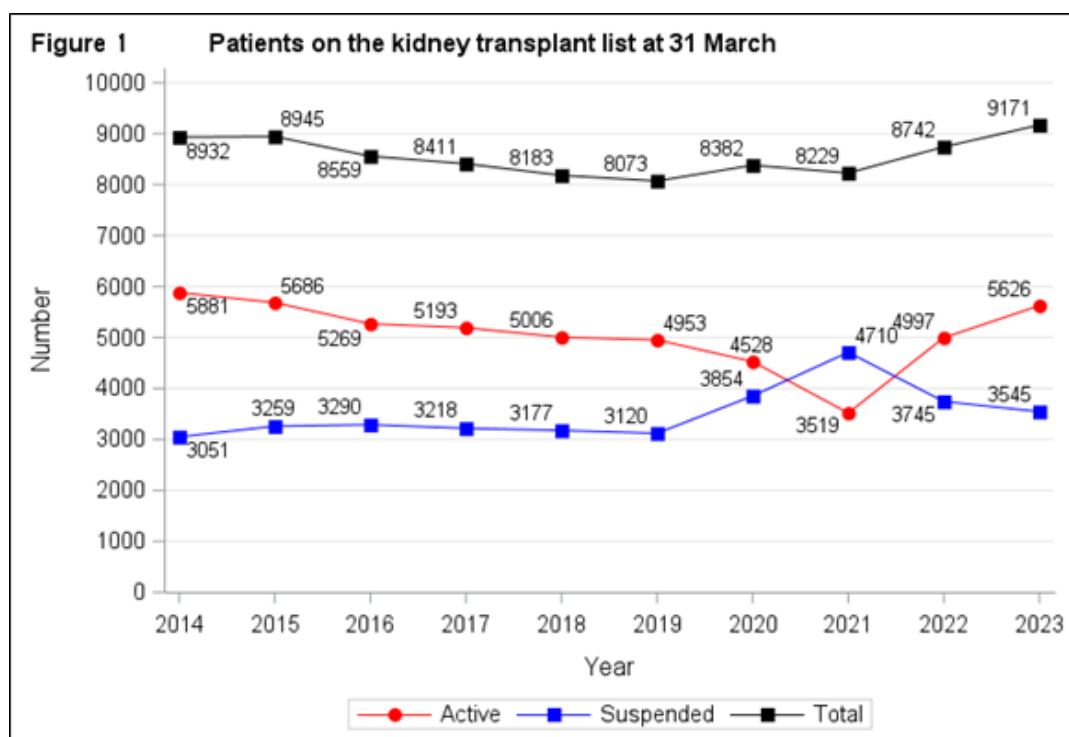
NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE

KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

SUSPENDED RECIPIENTS UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

- The active kidney transplant waiting list has decreased from 5,881 in 2014 to 5,626 in 2023. Over this time period the number of recipients suspended on the kidney transplant list has increased from 3,051 in 2014 to 3,545 in 2023 (**Figure 1**). This paper looks at the characteristics of suspended recipients.

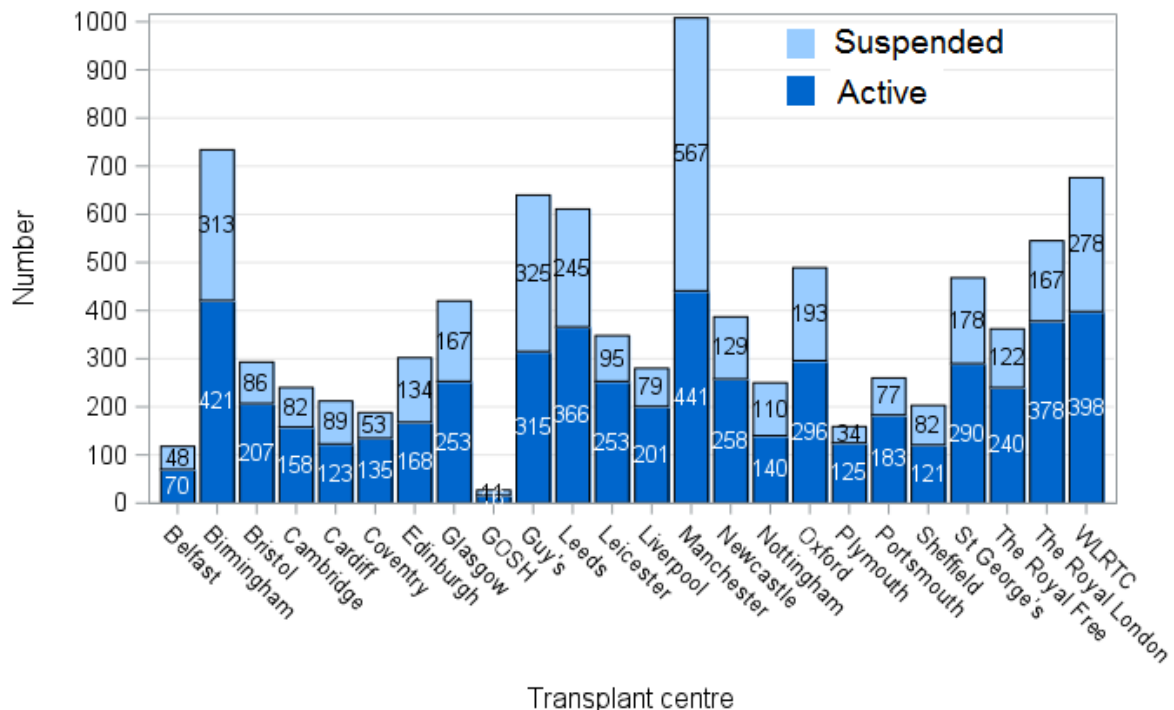


- As stated in POL186: Kidney Transplantation: Deceased Donor Organ Allocation, suspended time is taken into account for waiting time in the following way:
Waiting times
 Number of days waiting time accrued.
 Waiting time is determined from date of starting permanent dialysis (HD or PD) or date of first active listing for a graft, whichever is earliest. Each day accrues 1 point, including all days of suspension from the list.

DATA

- 3 Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on recipients on the UK kidney transplant list between 31 March 2014 and 31 August 2023.
- 4 **Figure 2** shows the number of recipients on the kidney only transplant list at 31 August 2023 by registration status and centre. 40% of all recipients were recorded as suspended at 31 August 2023 and this ranged from 21% in Plymouth to 56% in Manchester.

Figure 2 Recipients on the suspended kidney only transplant list at 31 August 2023, by centre



RESULTS

- 5 **Table 1** shows the number of recipients suspended at 31 August 2017, 2022 and 2023, who were suspended within their first 3 or 6 months of becoming active on the transplant list. This is based on recipients who are currently suspended and includes recipients who were activated in previous years, suspended within the first 3/6 months and are still suspended at the time of analysis. The data shows that the number of recipients suspended within the first 3 months has increased by 149. This equates to a 4% increase as a proportion of all suspended recipients. The number of recipients who were suspended prior to activation on the transplant list decreased from 629 in 2017 to 609 in 2023.

Table 1 Point of suspension for recipients on transplant list 31 August 2017 and 2023

| | 2017 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|--------------------------------------|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Suspended Prior to activation | 629 | 20 | 711 | 19 | 764 | 21 |
| Suspended in first 3 months | 423 | 12 | 609 | 16 | 572 | 16 |
| Suspended in first 6 months | 665 | 20 | 964 | 26 | 889 | 24 |
| Total number of suspended recipients | 3165 | | 3760 | | 3664 | |

6 **Table 2** shows the number of recipients who were suspended for more than 2 years (post activation) at 31 August 2017, 2022 and 2023. The number of recipients who were suspended for more than 2 years increased by 320 between 2017 and 2022 but then decreased by 230 between 2022 and 2023. In 2023, 37% of recipients suspended for more than 2 years were reported as not on dialysis. While it is likely that many of these recipients had started dialysis since registration, it gives an indication of the proportion who joined the list prior to starting dialysis and would potentially lose points if removed from the list. Pre-emptive listing rates between April 2021 and March 2022 were 42% for the UK overall.

Table 2 Long term suspensions, post-activation 31 August 2017, 2022 and 2023

| | 2017 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|--------------------------------------|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Suspended for more than 2 years | 583 | 18 | 903 | 24 | 673 | 18 |
| Suspended for more than 5 years | 118 | 4 | 180 | 5 | 144 | 4 |
| Total number of suspended recipients | 3165 | | 3760 | | 3664 | |

7 **Table 3** shows the reasons for suspension along with summary data on the length of suspension, for all recipients suspended at 31 August 2017, 2022 and 2023. The length of suspension is defined from the start date of suspension to 31 August in the

respective years. Where known, the proportion observed for reason of suspension has changed little over the 6-year period. The total numbers of suspended recipients have increased but the median length of suspension has decreased from 301 days to 255 days.

Table 3 Reason given for recipient suspensions as at 31 August 2017, 2022 and 2023

2017

| Reason | N | % | Length of Suspension | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----|----------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| | | | Median | IQ-Range | Min | Max |
| Condition Improved | 77 | 2 | 434 | 204-841 | 6 | 3838 |
| Condition Deteriorated | 1000 | 32 | 304 | 105-658 | 0 | 4077 |
| Medical Investigations | 401 | 13 | 260 | 92-645 | 1 | 3144 |
| Patient/Parent request | 125 | 4 | 283 | 41-687 | 0 | 2131 |
| Patient non-compliant | 34 | 1 | 627 | 127-1100 | 24 | 2131 |
| Live transplant work up | 55 | 2 | 38 | 17-114 | 1 | 1148 |
| Patient temporarily unavailable | 99 | 3 | 49 | 13-357 | 0 | 2739 |
| Other | 111 | 4 | 254 | 80-861 | 0 | 3816 |
| Unknown | 1263 | 40 | 331 | 119-799 | 0 | 5433 |
| Total | 3165 | | 301 | 97-710 | 0 | 5433 |

2022

| Reason | N | % | Length of Suspension | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| | | | Median | IQ-Range | Min | Max |
| Condition Improved | 56 | 2 | 841 | 223.5-1812.5 | 21 | 5398 |
| Condition Deteriorated | 1152 | 31 | 207 | 65-542 | 0 | 5903 |
| Medical Investigations | 412 | 11 | 314 | 113.5-908.5 | 0 | 4520 |
| Patient/Parent request | 170 | 5 | 420 | 97-968 | 0 | 3291 |
| Patient non-compliant | 25 | 1 | 1203 | 287-1630 | 23 | 3122 |
| Live transplant work up | 90 | 2 | 59 | 33-201 | 0 | 2240 |
| Patient temporarily unavailable | 73 | 2 | 79 | 20-745 | 0 | 4565 |
| Other | 251 | 7 | 329 | 71-880 | 5 | 3730 |
| Unknown | 1531 | 41 | 383 | 92-841 | 0 | 6319 |
| Total | 3760 | | 282 | 75.5-832 | 0 | 6319 |

| 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----|----------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|--|
| Reason | N | % | Length of Suspension | | | | |
| | | | Median | IQ-Range | Min | Max | |
| Condition Improved | 61 | 2 | 437 | 123-1280 | 9 | 3670 | |
| Condition Deteriorated | 1187 | 32 | 224 | 83-517 | 0 | 6268 | |
| Medical Investigations | 457 | 12 | 230 | 80-570 | 0 | 4885 | |
| Patient/Parent request | 158 | 4 | 374.5 | 114-971 | 0 | 3551 | |
| Patient non-compliant | 21 | 1 | 534 | 205-1667 | 0 | 3487 | |
| Live transplant work up | 69 | 2 | 90 | 27-164 | 0 | 1561 | |
| Patient temporarily unavailable | 84 | 2 | 57 | 13-279.5 | 0 | 3545 | |
| Other | 184 | 5 | 432 | 132.5-1035.5 | 0 | 4095 | |
| Unknown | 1443 | 39 | 299 | 90.5-891 | 0 | 6684 | |
| Total | 3664 | | 255 | 80-665 | 0 | 6684 | |

8 **Table 4** shows the demographics of recipients suspended on the kidney only transplant list at 31 August 2012 and 2023. There has been no change between 2022 and 2023 in proportion of recipients suspended across age, sex, ethnicity and risk group.

| Table 4 | | Demographics characteristics of recipients suspended on the kidney only transplant list at 31 August 2022 and 2023 | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---|----|------|----|------|
| | | 2022 | | 2023 | | |
| Factor | | N | % | N | % | |
| Age | 0-17 | 61 | 2 | 54 | 1 | 0.92 |
| | 18-34 | 373 | 10 | 344 | 9 | |
| | 35-49 | 889 | 24 | 888 | 24 | |
| | 50-59 | 1035 | 28 | 1029 | 28 | |
| | 60-69 | 1003 | 27 | 970 | 26 | |
| | 70+ | 399 | 11 | 379 | 10 | |
| Sex | Male | 2203 | 59 | 2171 | 59 | 0.47 |
| | Female | 1551 | 41 | 1483 | 41 | |
| | Unknown | 6 | 0 | 10 | 0 | |
| Ethnicity | White | 2498 | 66 | 2390 | 66 | 0.18 |
| | Asian | 628 | 17 | 642 | 17 | |
| | Black | 436 | 12 | 405 | 12 | |
| | Other | 140 | 4 | 142 | 4 | |
| | Unknown | 58 | 1 | 85 | 2 | |
| Risk Group* | R1 | 901 | 29 | 835 | 28 | 0.27 |
| | R2 | 860 | 27 | 819 | 27 | |
| | R3 | 799 | 25 | 790 | 26 | |
| | R4 | 599 | 19 | 568 | 19 | |
| | Missing | 601 | | 652 | | |

**Risk groups are based on the last calculated value and are missing where the recipient has not been active*

- 9 Table 5 shows the number of recipients who were suspended in the first wave of the pandemic by centre as well as their outcome. The total number of recipients not reactivated since June 2020 is 110, a decrease from 199 when the data was reported in October 2022.

Table 5 Outcomes of recipients suspended from the transplant list between March 2020 and June 2020, as at 11 September 2023

| Transplant Centre | Total active Feb 2020 | N suspended Mar-Jun 2020 | % Suspended | N Not Reactivated | % Not Reactivated | P-value |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | Belfast | 79 | 8 | (10) | 0 | (0) |
| Birmingham | 353 | 345 | (98) | 7 | (2) | |
| Bristol | 151 | 141 | (93) | 1 | (1) | |
| Cambridge | 164 | 84 | (51) | 1 | (1) | |
| Cardiff | 147 | 146 | (99) | 6 | (4) | |
| Coventry | 109 | 107 | (98) | 1 | (1) | |
| Edinburgh | 161 | 159 | (99) | 9 | (6) | |
| Glasgow | 254 | 167 | (66) | 7 | (4) | |
| Leeds | 285 | 152 | (53) | 2 | (1) | |
| Leicester | 174 | 165 | (95) | 2 | (1) | |
| Liverpool | 141 | 135 | (96) | 1 | (1) | |
| London, Great Ormond Street | 17 | 16 | (94) | 0 | (0) | |
| London, Guy's | 237 | 231 | (97) | 16 | (7) | |
| London, St George's | 230 | 223 | (97) | 14 | (6) | |
| London, The Royal Free | 234 | 221 | (94) | 4 | (2) | |
| London, The Royal London | 318 | 310 | (97) | 14 | (5) | |
| London, WLRTC | 382 | 354 | (93) | 7 | (2) | |
| Manchester | 416 | 400 | (96) | 8 | (2) | |
| Newcastle | 206 | 197 | (96) | 2 | (1) | |
| Nottingham | 127 | 124 | (98) | 3 | (2) | |
| Oxford | 189 | 122 | (65) | 0 | (0) | |
| Plymouth | 96 | 89 | (93) | 0 | (0) | |
| Portsmouth | 143 | 139 | (97) | 2 | (1) | |
| Sheffield | 112 | 107 | (96) | 3 | (3) | |

SUMMARY

- 10 The number of recipients suspended on the transplant list has decreased from 3745 in March 2022 to 3545 in March 2023. However, this is a 16% increase from the number suspended in March 2017. The number of recipients not reactivated since the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has now reduced from 199 recipients in September 2022 to 110 in September 2023.

- 11 Following agreement at KAG in October 2022, an IT request has been logged to restrict the number of waiting time points that can be accumulated while suspended, for recipients who are activated on the kidney transplant list prior to starting dialysis.

Matthew Robb and Rommel Ravanan

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