

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
LIVER ADVISORY GROUP
IT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

March 2014

Summary

This report summarises further progress made since the last report in September 2013 on information technology project implementation within the Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT) directorate.

IFALD

The changes to NTxD and associated systems to implement the 'Intestinal Failure Associated Liver Disease' allocation scheme were implemented on 22nd July 2013. A system error with the functioning of the scheme was identified in late August, resulting in the use of the IFALD allocation being suspended temporarily. The system resumed operation on October 30th, 2013 and remains in operation.

Donor Registration Transformation

The Donor Registration Transformation project is now well underway. The first phase of the project is due for release in the Summer of 2014 and will largely eliminate the use of paper forms by Specialist Nurses when registering a donor by providing them with a tablet-based solution. Again, this is designed to eliminate the need to transcribe data and remove the risk of patient harm due to transcription errors. The second phase of the project, due for release in the Autumn of 2014, will include an amended Core Donor Data Set which will be reflected in the data displayed on EOS and EOS Mobile, it will also include the delivery of the patient assessment form (PA1) to the transplant centres via EOS and EOS Mobile. The revised Core Donor Data Set has been developed following consultation with transplant centre representatives.

New Organ Donor Register

Work has started on the development of a new Organ Donor Register (ODR), for the whole of the UK, to ensure that the new register is fully operational in advance of 1 December 2015, when the opt-out provisions of the Welsh legislation come into force.

The development of a new ODR was approved and is being funded by all four UK health departments to support the implementation of the Welsh legislation. For the first time in the UK it will enable people who refuse to donate to record their decision, as well as continuing to allow those who want to donate to record their wish.

The new Register allows NHSBT to redesign some of the operational processes connected with the ODR to further improve data accuracy, building on the work undertaken since 2010 to ensure confidence in the system. It is also anticipated that registrations will be processed more quickly with the new register and significant improvements are expected in the register's reporting and management information capabilities.

DCD Kidney Allocation

The project to implement a national DCD kidney sharing scheme is underway and is now expected to be completed in the autumn of 2014. The project will implement the recommendations of the Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Kidney Allocation Working Party (KAWP), a sub-group of the Kidney Advisory Group (KAG), and endorsed by the NHSBT Kidney Advisory Group in December 2012. Currently, DCD kidneys are allocated according to local arrangements only and acceptance criteria vary between centres resulting in under-utilisation of these kidneys.

ODT Infrastructure Refresh Project

This project has been required to replace the computer hardware and database licenses on which the National Transplant Database (NTxD) and Organ Donor Register operate. It will move them both onto software versions which can continue to be supported in the future. Since the project affects these core applications it is being carefully planned to minimise risk of the systems failing and therefore includes a provision for a short change freeze to these systems during the summer of 2014. This has had some impact on other projects, particularly DCD Kidney Allocation.

Future Programme of Work

Outcome 4 of the Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020 strategy addresses the need to develop systems and processes to enable more transplants to happen. This includes the need for improved technology. An ambitious programme of change is currently being developed by NHSBT staff to identify how the supporting systems and processes can be improved over the next five years. This will require substantial investment and a formal business case will be prepared to seek to attract funding.

Aaron Powell

Assistant Director – Transplantation Support Services