

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP

UNIVERSAL LIVER TRANSPLANT ALLOCATION SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Work on a universal liver transplant allocation scheme culminated in a consensus conference in March 2012. Feedback from this consensus conference highlighted limitations with the data used for model development and the simulations.
- 2 The sequential data collection, which provides data to be used in the simulations of the allocation schemes, recommenced in December 2012 and gives monthly updates on the clinical status of patients on the transplant list. It was recommended that these data be collected for at least one year from all centres before the allocation simulations were rerun.
- 3 This paper details the proposed analysis for the universal liver transplant allocation scheme which it is hoped will commence in January 2014, assuming all centres have returned sequential data. There will be little point in developing an allocation scheme that uses updated data on a patient's condition while registered, unless these data are available from all centres in the stated time period. Currently, Birmingham has not returned any data.
- 4 It is essential that the work on standardisation of measurements is completed before work on the allocation schemes re-commences. Dr. Douglas Thorburn from Royal Free is taking this forward.

PROPOSED ANALYSIS

- 5 Derive the Cox model for survival on the transplant list from an updated cohort of data with outcomes as at 31 December 2013. Ethnicity would be excluded from the factors investigated for the model due to concerns around the categorisation of patients and interpretation, due to the small numbers of Black and minority ethnic group patients.
- 6 Derive the Cox model for transplant survival¹ after transplantation from a larger cohort of data, by extending the time period of transplants by two further years and longer follow-up until 31 December 2013.
- 7 Analyse centre differences in deaths on the list using additional retrospective data collected for patients who have died on the adult elective transplant list since January 2012. This data collection is due to commence shortly.
- 8 Rerun simulations for the three different allocation schemes proposed (need, utility and transplant benefit) for the three different distribution areas (zonal, regional, national).

¹ The time from transplantation to the earlier of graft failure or patient death.

TIMESCALES

- 9 It is expected that the work on model refinement and simulation of allocation schemes would take four months. However, this timeline is reliant on relevant data being returned from all centres and the work on standardisation of measurements being completed.

ADDITIONAL WORK

- 10 Additionally, it is proposed to compare UKELD and refit-MELD scores. This is a project initiated by Professor Andrew Burroughs and, similarly to the simulations of the allocation schemes, relies on the standardisation of measurements mentioned in 4 above.

Elisa Allen
Statistics and Clinical Studies

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