

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT  
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

**LIVER ADVISORY GROUP**

**Peer Review**

There was a very successful Peer Review exercise for the Cardiothoracic centres, including the one in Scotland, carried out by the NHS England Peer Review team, in the spring of 2015. NHS England provided all the logistics, including developing measures against which the centres were to be assessed, reviewers for training and arranging the visits to each centre. They have a web-based process for dealing with all the documents. The whole thing could not have been done to a good standard without their organizational skills and experience.

The process produced a sharing of good practice which will be consolidated at a national meeting in December. It allowed all centres to highlight resource shortages, some of which have already been resolved locally. Some more serious concerns raised over the provision of paediatric lung transplantation stimulated NHS England to review how the service is provided, with input from both UK and European experts.

All centres participated and found it extremely useful. To establish regular Peer Review is of course part of the NHSBT 2020 Strategy. Strong support was given to a repeat of the Cardiothoracic Peer Review and for a roll-out into other transplant specialities. At the September meeting of the relevant Programme of Care (PoC) approval was given for the Quality Surveillance Team (the new umbrella for those performing Peer Review) to carry out a repeat for the cardiothoracic teams and to extend it to liver and renal transplantation.

There has since been confirmation, at least for kidney, that this will all take place. Confirmation for liver is anticipated shortly, and the opportunity should be seized. Centres will find this a valuable and stimulating piece of work, which would be very difficult to accomplish without NHS England's help and input.

John Dark  
November 2015