

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

**KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP**

**SUSPENDED RECIPIENTS UPDATE**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1 Data were presented at the Kidney Advisory Group meeting in October 2023, showing the number of suspended patients on the kidney transplant list and the length of suspension. The paper showed that the number of suspended recipients remains high and in total there were 3664 patients suspended. The paper also showed that 4% of suspended patients had been suspended for over 5 years and the maximum length of suspension at that time was 6684 days.
- 2 **Table 1** shows the number of patients who have been suspended for 7 years or more as at 7 January 2023, by transplant centre. In total, 61 patients have been suspended for more than 7 years. Details of these recipients have been circulated to the KAG representatives for these centres ahead of the meeting.

**Table 1** – Patients currently suspended at 7 January 2024, who have been suspended for 7 years or more, by transplant centre

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>
Birmingham	7
Cardiff	1
Coventry	1
Edinburgh	1
Glasgow	6
Leeds	2
Liverpool	2
London, Guy's	1
London, St George's	2
London, The Royal London	2
London, WLRTC	7
Manchester	20
Newcastle	2
Nottingham	2
Oxford	1
Sheffield	4

## PROPOSAL

- 3 To ensure adequate hygiene of the suspended list where the list truly reflects patients with a reversible or mitigatable or clinically defensible reasons for suspension and encourage regular centre level review of the suspended list to test that longer term suspensions are the only way of managing the issue, KAG members are asked to consider the proposal:
  - all centres are to review their list of recipients who have been suspended for 7 years or more within 6 weeks of this meeting. Following this period for review, in the absence of a valid clinical reason to maintain patients in the suspended state, they will be removed from the list by NHSBT.
- 4 As highlighted at KAG Oct 2023, approximately 20% of the WL (600-700 patients) had their first registration status as 'suspended' (i.e. patients registered as suspended prior to subsequent possible activation). This practise was not seen from all centres. Further, there appeared to be no clinically justifiable reason for such a pathway. The only group of recipients for whom this may be appropriate are recipients who are registered for the UKLKSS, but not to be activated on the transplant list. Therefore, apart from this group of recipients, it is proposed that recipients are not registered with their first status as 'suspended' going forward. If agreed, a request to remove this option from the registration form will be logged at NHSBT. Unintended but possibly predictable consequences of the above proposal may be higher number of patients who are activated and then immediately (or within 90 days) suspended. Centre specific data on such practise can be routinely monitored, at least annually, as a standing agenda item at KAG with follow through as necessary.
- 5 KAG members are also asked to consider a further review again in 12 months' time, where the length of suspension to be considered in the review would be reduced by 6 months so that in 2025, suspensions of over 6.5 years would be reviewed and so on.

**Matthew Robb and Rommel Ravanan**

**January 2024**