

Update from the NHS Wales Executive on behalf of Wales

Welsh Transplantation Clinical Reference Group (Formerly WTAG)

Background:

The Wales data constitutes of the South Wales Organ Donation Team and one Health Board in North Wales, covered by the North West Organ Donation Team.

1. Organ Donation and Transplantation position - Wales

Activity/performance (April 2024 – August 2024):

- 19 proceeding deceased donors YTD.
- Consistently high referral rates (98%).
- Consent rate has increased in recent 2 months. Currently 56% (DBD 78% and DCD 40%).
- Focus on consent is ODR overrides (4 since April) and deemed overrides (7 since April).
- Numbers are small which can cause fluctuations in perceived performance.
- 14 proceeding living donors YTD performed in University Hospital Wales, Cardiff.
- 56 transplants in total performed in University Hospital Wales, Cardiff.
- 384 tissue referrals YTD, 43 proceeding tissue donors (37 eye tissue donors, 8 heart, 1 multi-tissue).

WTCRG:

- New Chair, Consultant Transplant Surgeon Mike Stephens and Co-Chair, Lead Nurse South Wales Organ Donation Team Charlotte Goodwin.
- The structure of the meeting will centre around the priorities detailed in the Welsh Plan 2022 – 2026.

Priority 1: Increasing deceased organ donation

- Consent initiatives: including focus on ODR overrides and deemed decisions.
- Appointment of Regional Education Clinical Lead Organ Donation (REd CLOD) is complete with significant opportunity to share practice across Wales and the network.
- A bilingual version of the current NHSBT consent form is in development.
- Local approach databases to review patient pathways from admission to end of life.

- Development of a Wales-specific marketing strategy underway including development of a new marketing role to focus solely on Wales and commissioning an independent company to develop a bespoke media campaign.
- Consent focus in Wales at South Wales Collaborative.
- Supporting new initiatives, i.e. Specialist Early Exploration Donation (SEED) project at the Grange hospital which focuses on early raising of donation during admission to “plant the seed” of potential pathway outcomes.
- New Medical Examiner (ME) service came into place 9th September with required referral to an ME for guidance on coronial referral.

Priority 2: Increasing tissue and eye donation

- University Hospital Wales is in the process of setting up a funded eye retrieval scheme (ERS) with anticipated commencement Autumn 2024.
- Regional Tissue Donation Nurse Specialist establishing partnerships with hospices (19 of the 37 proceeding eye tissue donors are from a Marie Curie hospice in Penarth due to this established programme).
- Development of a joint organ and tissue donation report is underway to enable all essential matrix to be viewed on a single dashboard.

Priority 3: Increasing living donation and transplantation

- Team have continued to grow the live donor programme year on year due to cross team collaboration and working closely with colleagues in Swansea Bay University Health Board, who are a referral centre for the programme.
- Living donor representatives to join the WTCRG and lead on this workstream.

Priority 4: Increasing access to transplantation

- No change from previous report.

Priority 5: Improving transplant outcomes

- Novel technologies and hep C programmes continue.
- Clinical Lead for organ utilisation in position to help lead this project stream.

Priority 6: Ensuring a sustainable, supported and diverse workforce

- No change from previous report.

Celebrating success:

- National Deceased Donation SIM course held on 17th and 18th July 2024 in Cardiff.
- The Organ Donation team at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board were nominated for team of the year at the staff recognition awards, the team were awarded highly commended (Image 1).
- Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod 3rd – 10th August (approx. 170,000 people attended over 8 days) [Our Festival | Eisteddfod](#) (Image 2 - 5).
- South Wales and South West Paediatric and Neonatal Organ Donation Study Day 17th September Cardiff.
- Attendance at the Royal Pembrokehire Show.
- Cardiff NORS Team visited NHS Blood and Transplant Hub for education session on 17th September.
- Theatre Simulation Study Day 19th September.
- Wrexham FC promotional stand 21st September.
- North Wales Medical Student Simulation.

Future events:

- Snowdon and Pen Y Fan summits on 27th September as part of the “Turn the Peaks Pink” an initiative which was born from the North Wales team who have for some years been walking Snowdon in Organ Donation week with donor families.
- Plans in place for lighting up landmarks across Wales in Organ Donation week to raise awareness.
- Race for Recipients.
- Autumn Regional Collaborative 13th November Swansea.
- Donor memorial events and Order of St John Memorial events.
- Autumn Regional Collaborative 6th December Liverpool.
- North Wales Health Board Multidisciplinary Simulation.

July – September in images:

Image 1: Organ Donation Team at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Team of the Year

WINNER – The Community Children’s Nursing Service (for reducing agency reliance and filling vacancies through innovative recruitment, benefiting local communities)

HIGHLY COMMENDED - Organ Donation Team at GUH (for doubling their organ donor numbers and increasing awareness of organ donation)



Images 2 – 5: Rhondda Cynon Taf National Eisteddfod



2. Welsh Blood Service (WBS) Update

We continue to work with WBS to ensure that the work they undertake to secure the demand for blood/plasma donations is met. We are aware of the mutual aid they provide to the other nations.

We are working to secure the funding required for the Plasma for Medicines Project.

3. First Minister

Eluned Morgan, MS has become the first lady to assume the role of First Minister for Wales. Eluned was previously the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care in Wales. Ministerial roles have changed as a consequence and Jeremy Miles MS has now taken over the role of Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.