

## NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

### National Organ Donation Committee

#### Method for redefining the eligible DCD donor pool

#### BACKGROUND

1. Following the DCD triage development project in 2015, the DCD assessment process was introduced on 1 December 2015 for all UK DCD referrals, precluding SN-ODs/medical or nursing staff from approaching families of eligible donors meeting the DCD exclusion criteria. As a result, the current definition of an eligible DCD donor overestimates the actual eligible donor pool and therefore underestimates the true approach rate.
2. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the proportion of patients who were excluded from the donation process via DCD exclusion or kidney screening, and consequently not approached by SN-ODs/medical or nursing staff, in order to calculate a more appropriate DCD approach rate.

#### CURRENT PRACTICE

3. The current definition is that eligible DCD donors are those with no absolute contraindication, are mechanical ventilated, where imminent death is anticipated within a few hours and treatment withdrawn. The proposed revised eligible DCD donor pool will exclude the patients who were not approached where the reason given for not approaching was that patients met the DCD exclusion criteria or kidney screening deemed them unsuitable for organ donation. For details of DCD exclusion criteria please see **Appendix A1**.
4. These criteria have not been formally incorporated in the Referral Record and the Electronic Operating System (EOS). To identify the patients who met the DCD exclusion criteria, SN-ODs are instructed to enter the text "DCD Exclusion" or "Kidney Screening" as the reason for lack of approach in the Referral Record. For details of the Referral Record workaround for DCD assessment please see **Appendix A2**.

#### DATA

5. The following analysis investigates PDA data since the introduction of the DCD assessment process, from 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2016. This paper defines the revised eligible DCD donor pool by excluding patients with "DCD exclusion" or "Kidney screening" recorded in the free text of the as the reason for not approaching the patient's family.

#### REVISED ELIGIBLE DCD DONOR POOL

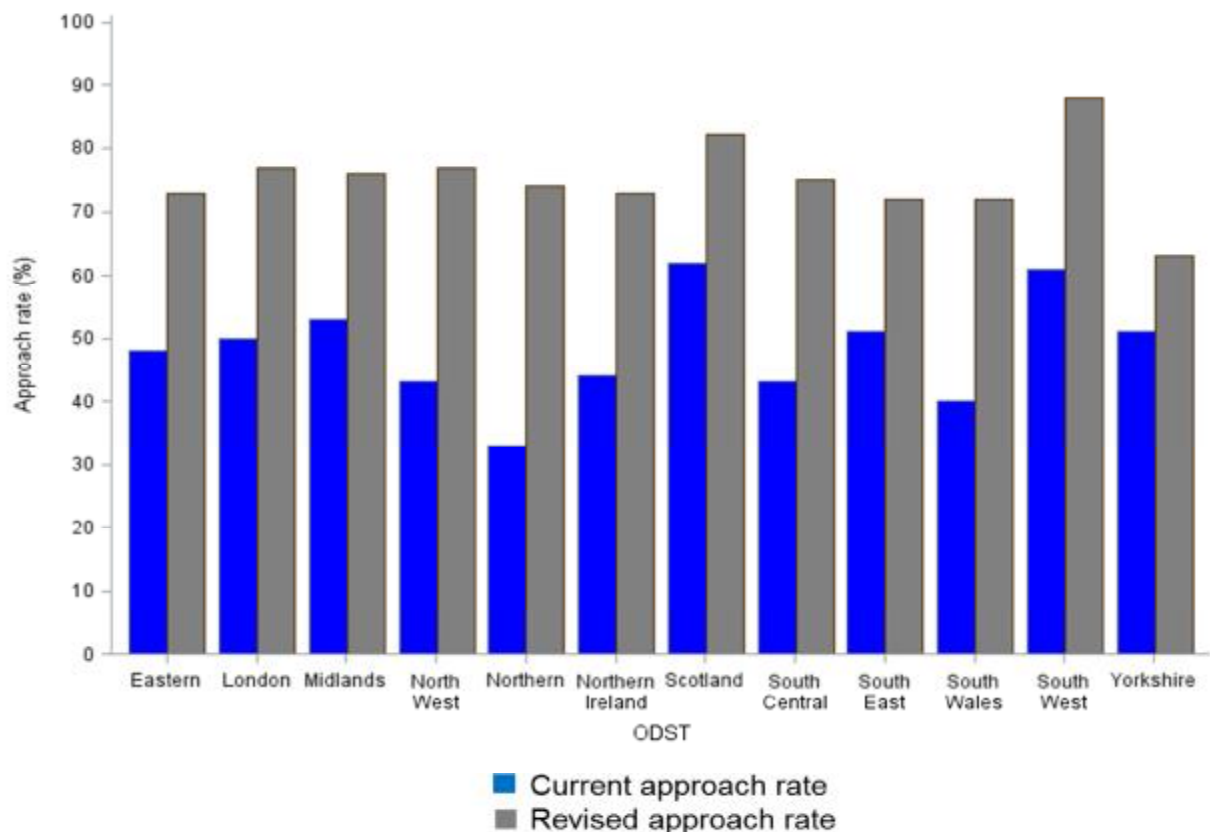
6. **Table 1** compares the eligible DCD donor pool and approach rate under the current system with the revised method, by excluding those patients removed from the donation process due to DCD exclusion or kidney screening.

**Table 1 Current and revised eligible DCD donor pool and approach rates by Organ Donation Services Team (ODST), 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2016**

ODST	Current eligible DCD donor pool	Current approach rate		Revised eligible DCD donor pool	Revised approach rate	
	N	N	%	N	N	%
Eastern	438	209	48	287	209	73
London	371	184	50	238	184	77
Midlands	544	288	53	378	288	76
North West	558	241	43	314	241	77
Northern	344	115	33	156	115	74
Northern Ireland	108	48	44	66	48	73
Scotland	260	160	62	194	160	82
South Central	295	128	43	170	128	75
South East	368	187	51	260	187	72
South Wales	211	85	40	118	85	72
South West	233	143	61	163	143	88
Yorkshire	298	151	51	239	151	63
<b>UK</b>	<b>4028</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2583</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>75</b>

7. The current national approach rate between 1 December 2015 and 31 December 2016 is 48%. Amongst the teams the current approach rate ranges from 33% in the Northern team to 62% in the Scotland team.
8. The revised eligible DCD donor pool (N=2583) has excluded 36% of patients in the current pool because DCD exclusions were identified or kidney screening deemed them unsuitable for organ donation. Excluding these patients, the revised national approach rate is 75%, a significant increase on the approach rate based on the current definition. The revised rate ranges from 63% in Yorkshire to 88% in the South West team.
9. **Figure 1** shows the difference between the current and revised approach rates by ODST. The approach rate in Northern team is heavily influenced by the DCD exclusion (74% vs 33%), whereas there has been less impact on the Yorkshire team (63% vs 51%). This may be a result of some variation across teams in capturing the DCD exclusion or kidney screening on the Referral Record.

Figure 1 Current and revised approach rate by ODST



## CONCLUSION

10. Since the introduction of the DCD assessment and kidney screening, the current definition of the DCD eligible donor pool and subsequent DCD approach rates do not reflect current practice. Therefore it is proposed to revise the definition of the eligible DCD donor pool, to exclude patients that were not approached because of an identified DCD exclusion or as a result of kidney screening.
11. Revising the eligible DCD donor pool, the national DCD approach rate becomes 75%, which is considerably higher than the national DCD approach rate of 48% based on the current definition.
12. The patients to be excluded due to DCD exclusion and kidney screening were identified from the free text in the Referral Record, as this information has not been formally captured in EOS. Therefore the revised eligible DCD donor pool and corresponding approach rate are reliant on the DCD exclusions and kidney screening being recorded correctly.

## ACTION

13. Members are asked to consider the proposal for adopting a more appropriate measure of the DCD eligible donor pool and the reporting of the revised DCD approach rate as a more suitable performance metric than the rate currently derived.

Esther Wong  
Statistics and Clinical Studies

February 2017

## Appendix

### A1 Current DCD exclusion criteria effective from 1 December 2015 as at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

- Patient >80 with a non-neurological cause of death
- Previous cancer in last 5 years (excluding primary CNS cancer, localised prostate, thyroid, in situ cervical cancer and non-melanotic skin cancer)
- Current clinical diagnosis of ischaemic bowel
- Current clinical diagnosis of multiorgan failure and aged >40
- Current clinical diagnosis of Septicaemia/Sepsis with severe multi organ dysfunction

### A2 Referral Record Workaround for DCD Assessment

A document “PDA and Referral Completion Workaround for DCD Assessment” was circulated to SN-ODs, which describes the workaround on the existing Referral Record to capture the patients who were not approached because of “DCD exclusion” or “Kidney screening” in the current Referral Record. In the document it is stated:

*If family were NOT approached - select No, select reason as “Other” and enter the text “DCD Exclusion” or “Kidney Screening”*

From the referral data, we have found often SN-OD would select either “Patient’s general medical condition”, “Other medical reason” or “Other”, and then enter relevant free text to indicate DCD exclusion or kidney screening. Also, they sometimes enter other relevant words instead of strictly DCD exclusion or Kidney screening. Therefore, patients will be excluded in the revised eligible donor pool, if the SN-OD did not approach the family due to one of the above three reasons and the associated free text contained one of the following words: **DCD assessment, DCD assessment tool, DCD tool, DCD donor assessment, DCD triage, DCD criteria, Multi-organ failure\*, Multi organ failure\*, MOF\*, ischaemic bowel\*, DCD screening, Kidney screening, Screening, Screen and Screened.**

\*these are DCD exclusion criteria, see **A1**