

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
National Organ Donation Committee
Investigation of patients who died in ED

INTRODUCTION

The paper aims to investigate whether, of patients dying in an Emergency Department (ED), or dying after referral from an ED, the proportion of patients who are referred to ICU has changed over time.

In this paper, we have looked at two groups of patients who died between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2016:

1. Patients who met the (DBD or DCD) referral criteria and died in the ED
2. Patients who met the (DBD or DCD) referral criteria, were referred from the ED and died in the ICU

Patients who died in other units, as well as patients who were referred from ICU have been excluded.

These two groups of patients are compared by financial year and ODS team.

A. Comparing the proportions by financial year

Financial year	Number and percentage of patients by financial year					
	Patients who died in ED or were referred from ED and died in ICU		Patients who died in ED		Patients who were referred from ED and died in ICU	
	N		N	(%)	N	(%)
2012/13	705		410	58	295	42
2013/14	734		425	58	309	42
2014/15	726		389	54	337	46
2015/16	647		327	51	320	49
Overall	2812		1551	55	1261	45

Table 1 shows the overall number as well as the proportion of patients who died in an ED or were referred from an ED and died in an ICU by financial year. Overall, 55% of patients died in an ED, and over the 4 year period, the proportion has fallen.

B. Comparing the proportions by ODS team

ODS Team	Patients who died in an ED or were referred from an ED and died in an ICU	Patients who died in an ED		Patients who were referred from an ED and died in an ICU	
	N	N	(%)	N	(%)
Eastern	304	151	50	153	50
London	237	108	46	129	54
Midlands	462	323	70	139	30
North West	488	281	58	207	42
Northern	124	70	56	54	44
Northern Ireland	38	27	71	11	29
Scotland	111	62	56	49	44
South Central	158	90	57	68	43
South East	245	105	43	140	57
South Wales	188	108	57	80	43
South West	225	104	46	121	54
Yorkshire	232	122	53	110	47
UK	2812	1551	55	1261	45

Table 2 shows the overall number and the proportion of patients who died in an ED compared to those who were referred from an ED and died in an ICU by ODS team.

Figure 1 Proportion of patients who were referred from an ED and died in an ICU, 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2016, by ODS team.

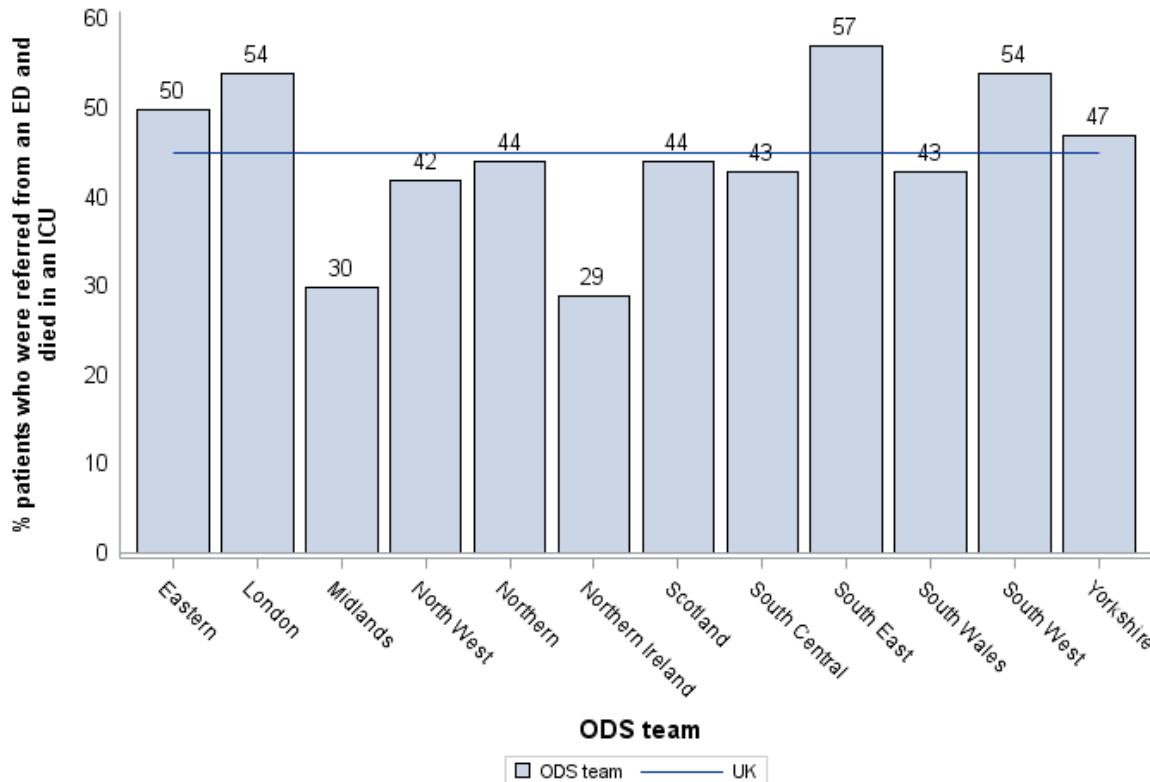


Figure 1 shows the proportion of the patients who were referred from an ED and died in the ICU ranges from 29% (Northern Ireland) to 57% (South East). This difference is statistically significant ($p < 0.0001$).

C. Further details about the patients who died in an ED

Of the 1551 patients who died in the ED, 707 (46%) were referred.

In addition, of the 1551 patients who died in the ED, 1137 were potential DBD or eligible DCD donors, and 177 (16%) were known to be registered on the ODR, as seen in **Table 3**. Of the 177 patients, 82 (46%) were referred, and 20 of the 177 patients (11%) proceeded to donate. For the 960 patients who were not registered on the ODR, 24 (2.5%) proceeded to donate.

Was patient on the ODR?	Was the patient referred?						Total	
	No		Yes					
	N	(%)	Did the patient proceed to donate?				N	(%)
			No	Yes	No	Yes		
			N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
No	515	84	421	87	24	55	960	84
Yes	95	16	62	13	20	45	177	16
Total	610	100	483	100	44	100	1137	100

D. Overall referral rate of ED patients

Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2016 there were 2,850 ED patients (patients that died in the ED or were referred from an ED, irrespective of location of death) who met the referral criteria. 1,994 (70%) of these patients were referred. Table 4 shows the referral rates by ODS team.

ODST	Patients meeting DBD or DCD referral criteria	Patients referred	Referral rate (%)
Eastern	305	227	74
London	238	172	72
Midlands	472	295	63
North West	500	357	71
Northern	124	80	65
Northern Ireland	38	19	50
Scotland	111	78	70
South Central	161	102	63
South East	247	179	73
South Wales	193	142	74
South West	226	176	78
Yorkshire	235	167	71
Total	2850	1994	70

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