



Summary of Implementation Steering group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU) Meeting, *February 2024*

Members were welcomed to the fifth meeting of the Implementation Steering Group for Organ Utilisation (ISOU).

The key aims of this meeting were to:

- Provide an update on progress – particularly from DHSC, NHSBT and NHSE as well as from the ISOU Subgroups.

2. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and actions arising

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

4. Update on progress from DHSC

- Good progress has been made on the ISOU subgroups since the last meeting in November. The first stakeholder Forum and Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (H+I) meetings took place in November, with the first Xenotransplantation and Trust Engagement subgroup meetings taking place in December. The H+I group met again in January and the Xenotransplantation group also met for a second time in February.

Patient engagement subgroup

- The Patient Engagement Subgroup Co-Chairs are in place and they recently met to discuss the terms and reference for the group, the membership, and dates for the first meeting, with plans in place to visit transplant centres and include local representatives from patient engagement groups.

Stakeholder Forum

- The first meeting was held at the end of November, with extensive engagement and agreement on the terms of reference. There was high interest in people attending Forum meetings, but a need to keep the membership relatively small so that it could remain effective. There will be an annual workshop, to include more stakeholders.

Xenotransplantation

- Met twice, with the most recent meeting focusing on regulation and ethics. There is no obvious regulator for xenotransplantation and it was unlikely to be possible to establish a new regulator, so focus will be on identifying an existing regulator to take on this role – potentially the MHRA – although multiple regulators may be an option.
- International colleagues had also attended meetings to provide insight as well as support collaborative international working. It was noted that the FDA were currently in the country and it would be helpful to engage with them if possible.
- DHSC had secured funding to undertake research into public attitudes for xenotransplantation.
- It was anticipated that there would be significant interest from patient groups and it would be helpful to include an update session at a future Stakeholder Forum.

ACTION: Xenotransplantation Co-Chairs to liaise with Forum Co-Chairs on a date to

present to the Forum.

H&I

- The group had started to engage with service suppliers to explore the best next steps, with engagement from DHSC commercial colleagues.
- It was confirmed that the NHSBT H&I Lead would be invited to join the group once they were in post.

Trust Engagement

- The Group was focused on engagement with Trust Executives in the first instance, with a letter going from ISOU Co-Chairs to remind them of the OUG report and the importance of local action to implement the recommendations.
- The initial drive would be on the OUG recommendation regarding the requirement for a local transplant utilisation strategy. More work was needed on exploring how to monitor the existence and progress of the local strategies.
- There was an opportunity within the subgroup to look at workforce issues and provide a steer for job planning, to support sustainability and resilience of the workforce.

ACTION: Discuss potential approach with Trusts regarding workforce planning.

- It was noted that there were plans for Organ Donation Committees in those Trusts with a transplant service to become Organ Donation and Transplantation Committees. The letter from NHSBT to Clinical Directors could highlight this.

ACTION: NHSBT to explore how to combine the approach with regular updates to Trust CEOs on donation activity.

5. Cardiothoracic (CT) Information Collation Exercise (ICE)

- The vulnerability with CT Transplantation services was recognised as well as the support on this work. Given the high level of interest, particularly from patient groups, it is important to progress this work.
- The Lung Summit, held by NHSBT and NHSE in February last year has potentially helped provide some impetus that is driving current improvements in lung donation.
- DHSC have developed an approach for the information gathering exercise that will inform a formal review of CT Transplant services by NHSE.
- 3 international cardiothoracic subject matter experts (SMEs) will visit the UK in April and meet with each transplant unit:
- DHSC are also working with NHSE on two online surveys – one for patients and one for clinicians – that will be analysed and developed into a report for the SMEs prior to their visit.
- NHSBT will provide the SMEs with a data pack containing the latest CT data from across centres.

6. Update on progress - NHSE

- NHSE making progress including developing plans for the formal CT Commissioning Review
- Resources have been put in place to support the review which will formally start at the beginning of April – this review will be supported by the CT ICE.
- It was agreed that a joint letter will be sent to CEOs of Transplant Units from DHSC, NHSE and NHSBT. An NHSE representative will also co-chair the Patient Engagement Subgroup.

7. Update on progress - NHSBT

- DHSC has provided funding for the Clinical Leads for Utilisation for the current Financial Year to help drive forward local improvements.
- There is a need for sustainable funding for this to provide greater certainty for teams and a need for sustainable funding approaches for machine perfusion for DCD hearts and

NRP.

- NHSBT providing a range of support to initiatives on other activities including:
 - Improving data and information for patients
 - Supporting improvement to living donation, with the LivingDonorPath project that won an award recently at the Together Awards
 - Transplant Oversight Group
- DHSC have asked for a project manager within NHSBT to support implementation and to liaise with DHSC project managers and recruitment is currently underway.

8. AOB, summary and next steps

Meeting summarised as above and no AOB raised.

9. Next meeting – 16 May 2024