

**SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION IN THE UK**  
**FOR CITIZENS IN GIBRALTAR**

**Background**

The UK has agreed to provide solid organ transplantation for residents of Gibraltar. This document outlines how this service would be delivered. It is estimated that the average number of patients requiring transplant per year is 0.25 heart, 1 liver and 1.5 kidney.

**Process for deceased donor transplantation**

Patients: where the clinician in Gibraltar believes the patient's best interest is served by a solid organ transplant will be referred to the UK.

Transplant Units:

- Kidney transplants: West London Transplant Centre
- Liver Transplants: Kings College Hospital, London
- Heart and lung transplants: Harefield Hospital

The clinicians and managers in Gibraltar and the UK identified hospital will develop effective working relationships that will enhance patient care and improve efficiency.

Assessment and Listing: the patient will be assessed at the UK Transplant Unit and, if suitable for transplantation and the patient meets the nationally agreed criteria, will be registered on the UK National Transplant Waiting List by NHSBT.

Residency on the waiting list: patients listed for

- Kidney alone and bowel transplants may return to Gibraltar until a graft becomes available (at the discretion of the transplant unit)
- Bowel transplants: if there is a patient requiring one of these then they need to reside close to the bowel transplant centre. The ischemic time tolerance is similar to the heart.
- Liver, heart, lung, pancreas alone will remain in the UK
- Pancreas and kidney will depend on clinical situation

Organ allocation: Residents of Gibraltar listed for organ transplantation will be Group 1 patients. Organs will be allocated according to national protocols. Where there is zonal allocation, the patients from Gibraltar will be included in the allocation zone of the designated transplant unit.

Transfer to UK of renal transplant candidate: when a suitable organ becomes available for transplant for a resident of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar administration will be responsible for arranging the transfer of the potential recipient to the UK; and this will be achieved within 10 hours of notification.

Transplant and follow-up: the recipient will stay in UK until it is clinically appropriate to return and follow-up will be transferred to local care. The Gibraltar medical team will provide NHSBT with follow-up details according to agreed protocols.

Care: patients will be treated in the UK as NHS patients; no clinician will receive additional remuneration for treating patients from Gibraltar.

## **AGChC(16)9**

Finances: the Gibraltar Government will agree financial arrangements with the relevant UK commissioners to reimburse NHS costs.

### **Process for living donor transplant**

Where a resident of Gibraltar has a living donor, then arrangements will be made for the donor and recipient operation to be done in the UK at the designated hospital. If the living donor is incompatible with the recipient, then the pair will be offered the option of inclusion in the paired donation programme.

### **Deceased organ donation**

The Government of Gibraltar is keen that suitable deceased citizens of Gibraltar should also contribute to the UK deceased donor pool where appropriate. The Gibraltar Government, under the Medical Director, Dr Antonio Marin will work with NHSBT to help develop a suitable programme in Gibraltar to achieve this goal. The work will be led on behalf of NHSBT by the National Clinical Lead for Organ Donation and the National Clinical Lead for Organ Retrieval.

9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.