

To: CT NORS Team Leads
CT NORS Team Members
CT Unit Clinical Directors
Regional Managers (for onward cascade)
National Retrieval Group Chair and Members
CT Advisory Group Members

28 January 2016

Dear Colleague

RE: Update on Scout Project Phase II

As you will be aware, following approval from the National Retrieval Group and Cardiothoracic Advisory Group, a second phase of the Scout project was launched on the 1st April 2015. This phase built on the initial feasibility study and aimed to determine:

- the logistical implications of a Scout service for cardiothoracic donors
- whether the presence of a scout impacts on heart retrieval rates.
- what interventions undertaken by the scout impact on heart retrieval
- if the presence of a Scout does prove successful, identify who is best placed to undertake cardiac donor management.

The project was due to run for 18 months, or until a sufficient number of donors had been attended to provide statistical significance.

The Steering Group met earlier this month, to review progress and undertake an interim analysis of the data collected. In summary, the Group concluded that the data available to date suggests a strong correlation between the presence of a Scout and an increase in heart retrievals, without any negative impact on the retrieval of any other organs. Whilst it is hard to draw any firm conclusions, the Group considered that the benefit of Scouting is likely to be a mix of additional assessment (through trans-oesophageal echocardiography and pulmonary artery catheterisation) and improved optimisation.

We presented our analysis to the Organ Donation and Transplantation Senior Management Team within NHS Blood and Transplant, who agreed with our conclusions and advised that the project should continue while work is undertaken within NHSBT to explore how the Scout service could be embedded as part of the organ retrieval service.

We will continue to keep you informed of progress regarding next steps for building the service in to business as usual. In the meantime, we would be grateful if the participating

NORS teams and SN-ODs could continue with the project and return data on any donors that meet the criteria for Scout attendance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the participating NORS teams and SN-ODs for their support of this project.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Tsui
Co-Chair, Scout Working Group
Chair, CTAG



Karen Quinn
Co-Chair, Scout Working Group
Assistant Director – Commissioning