

Pancreas Activity

Key messages

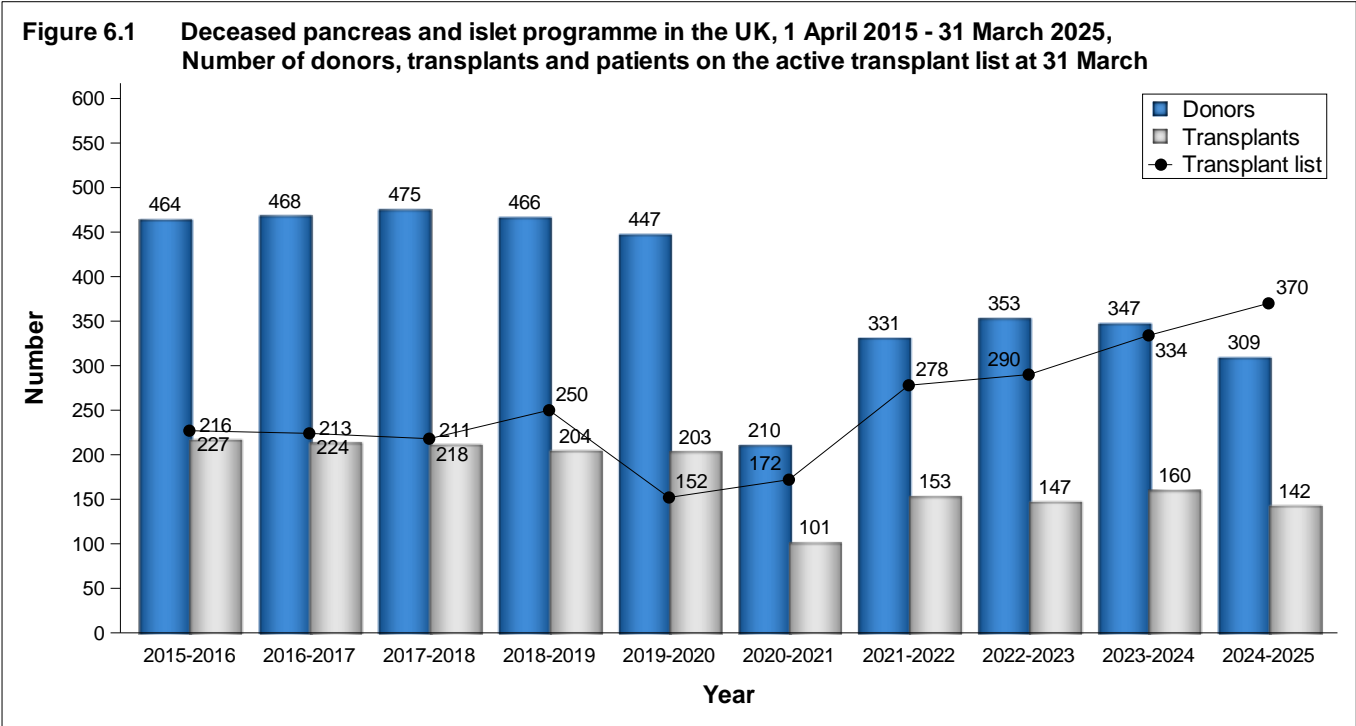
- The number of patients waiting on the pancreas transplant list increased by 11% during the year, to 370 at 31 March 2025
- The number of pancreas donors after brain death fell by 12% to 206, while transplants from donors after brain death decreased by 3% to 96
- The number of pancreas donors after circulatory death decreased by 11% to 103, while transplants from donors after circulatory death decreased by 23% to 46
- 23 islet transplants were made possible by the pancreas islet transplant programme

6.1 Overview

The number of patients registered on the active transplant list for a pancreas, simultaneous pancreas/kidney (SPK), simultaneous islet/kidney (SIK), or islet transplant has increased over the last ten years from 227 patients at 31 March 2016 to 370 patients at 31 March 2025. The number of pancreas donors fell from 347 to 309 in the last year. The number of transplants has decreased in the last 10 years to 142 transplants in 2024-2025. A summary of activity for deceased donor pancreas transplants and the transplant list for 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2025 is shown in **Figure 6.1**.

On 11 September 2019, an additional top tier of patients was introduced to the National Pancreas Offering Scheme. Patients in this top tier are either categorised as very difficult to HLA match to a donor or have been waiting for more than 3 years for a pancreas or islet transplant. All other patients appear in subsequent tiers and are prioritised according to a point system based on a range of clinical factors. A score is calculated for every potentially suitable patient and the pancreas is allocated preferentially to the patient with the most points after those in the top tier. Pancreases from donors after brain death and donors after circulatory death are allocated through this scheme. Patients listed for a vascularised pancreas or islet transplant are prioritised through one combined national transplant list.

Throughout this chapter, intestinal transplants involving a pancreas are not included in the pancreas transplant activity reported. Any pancreases retrieved and used for such transplants are however included in the pancreas donor activity. In 2024-2025 there were 15 intestinal transplants including a pancreas. Intestinal transplant activity is reported in Chapter 9.



6.2 Transplant list

Table 6.1 shows the number of patients on the active transplant lists at 31 March 2025 by centre. The number of patients registered on the pancreas transplant list increased by 11% in the year: on 31 March 2025, 370 patients were registered active, compared with 334 at the end of March 2024.

Of the 370 patients on the active transplant list at 31 March 2025, 316 (85%) required a SPK transplant (297 at 31 March 2024), 7 (2%) patients required a pancreas only transplant (5 at 31 March 2024) and 47 (13%) were registered for a pancreas islet transplant (including 28 for a SIK transplant).

The outcome of patients registered on the UK pancreas transplant list at 1 April 2024, or subsequently registered during the financial year, is shown in **Table 6.2**. Thirteen patients joined the pancreas transplant list while 226 joined the list for a kidney and pancreas.

Patients listed for a routine islet transplant are generally waiting for their first islet graft. The majority of islet transplant recipients are likely to require more than one graft to complete their treatment. To optimise transplant outcome the follow-up graft should be performed within six to twelve months of the first. Patients requiring follow-up grafts are priority listed.

Table 6.1 Patients on the pancreas transplant lists at 31 March 2025 (2024) in the UK, by centre												
Centre	Kidney/ pancreas		Kidney/islet		Active transplant lists						TOTAL	
					Pancreas alone		Islet					
							Routine		Priority			
Cambridge	26	(23)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	27	(23)
Cardiff	16	(13)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	16	(13)
Edinburgh	37	(42)	8	(5)	0	(0)	4	(5)	1	(2)	50	(54)
Guy's	35	(41)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	35	(41)
Manchester	111	(90)	14	(7)	4	(3)	4	(1)	2	(2)	135	(103)
Newcastle	17	(14)	0	(0)	0	(2)	4	(4)	1	(0)	22	(20)
Oxford	66	(66)	6	(5)	2	(0)	3	(1)	0	(0)	77	(72)
WLRTC	8	(8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	8	(8)
TOTAL	316	(297)	28	(17)	7	(5)	15	(11)	4	(4)	370	(334)
WLRTC - West London Renal and Transplant Centre												

Table 6.2 Whole pancreas transplant list and new registrations in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025						
Outcome of patient at 31 March 2025	Active and suspended patients at 1 April 2024		New registrations in 2024-2025 ¹		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Pancreas transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	48	81	7	54	55	76
Transplanted	1	2	5	38	6	8
Removed	10	17	1	8	11	15
TOTAL	59		13		72	
Kidney/pancreas transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	322	65	199	88	521	72
Transplanted	103	21	17	8	120	17
Removed ²	52	11	3	1	55	8
Died	16	3	7	3	23	3
TOTAL	493		226		719	
¹ Includes re-registrations for second or subsequent patients						
² Includes 13 patients removed from kidney/pancreas list and made active on kidney/islet list						

The active pancreas transplant list rates by country/NHS region of patient's residence are shown in **Table 6.3**. At 31 March 2025, the overall transplant list rate was 5.5 pmp and across NHS regions ranged from 3.0 to 9.2 pmp.

Table 6.3 Active pancreas, kidney/pancreas, and islet transplant list at 31 March, by Country/ NHS region of patient residence				
Country/ NHS region of residence	Pancreas/Islet transplant list (pmp)			
	2025		2024	
North East and Yorkshire	57	(6.9)	47	(5.7)
North West	69	(9.2)	47	(6.3)
Midlands	48	(4.4)	41	(3.7)
East of England	24	(3.8)	22	(3.4)
London	40	(4.5)	39	(4.4)
South East	28	(3.0)	36	(3.8)
South West	22	(3.8)	22	(3.8)
England	288	(5.0)	254	(4.4)
Isle of Man	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	0	(0.0)	1	(5.9)
Wales	31	(9.9)	24	(7.7)
Scotland	43	(7.9)	51	(9.4)
Northern Ireland	7	(3.7)	3	(1.6)
TOTAL¹	370	(5.5)	334	(4.9)

¹Includes patients in 2025 (2024) residing in: Unspecified UK 1 (1)

An indication of longer-term outcomes for patients listed for a pancreas or kidney/pancreas transplant is shown in **Figure 6.2**. This shows the proportion of patients transplanted or still waiting six months, one year, two years, and three years after joining the list. It also shows the proportion removed from the transplant list (typically because they become too unwell for transplant) and those dying while on the transplant list. 19% of patients are transplanted within one year, while three years after listing 54% of patients have received a transplant. The median (average) waiting time for a pancreas transplant is 478 days and is shown by blood group in **Table 6.4** and ethnicity in **Table 6.5**. Note that these waiting times are not adjusted for other relevant factors which may be influential and which may differ across blood or ethnic groups.

Figure 6.2 Post-registration outcome for 261 new pancreas only and kidney/pancreas registrations made in the UK, 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

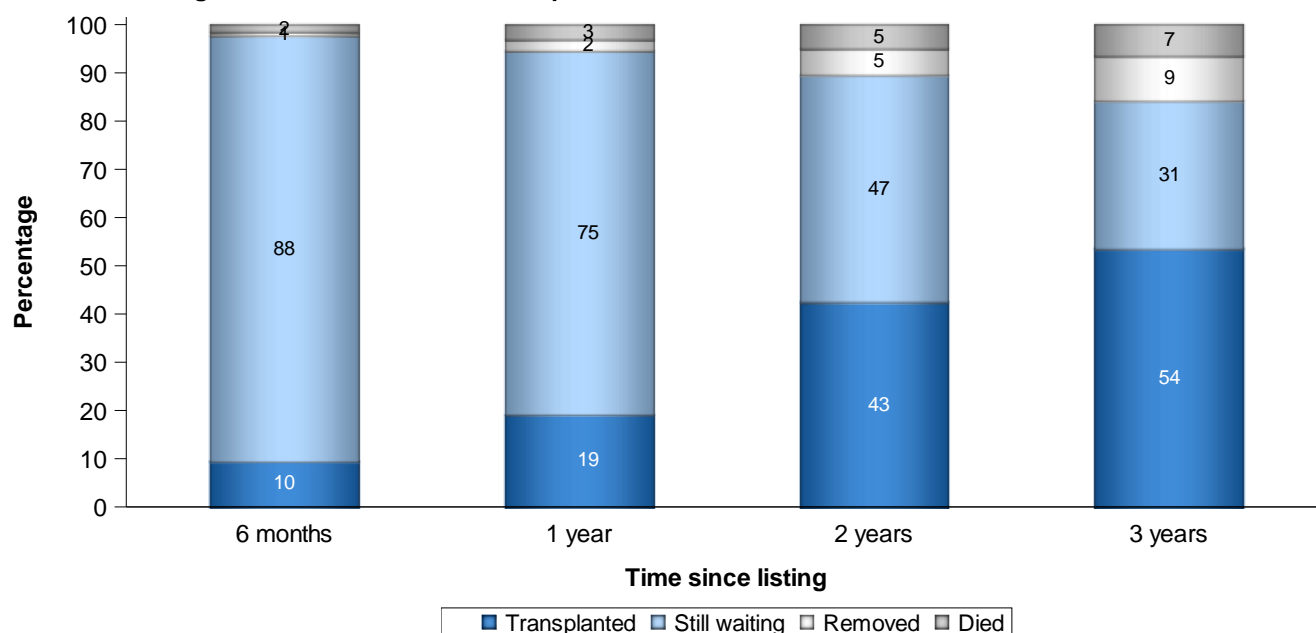


Table 6.4 Median waiting time to pancreas only and kidney/pancreas transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023

Blood group	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Adult			
O	383	820	705 - 935
A	340	377	329 - 425
B	100	436	356 - 516
AB	32	148	108 - 188
TOTAL	855	478	445 - 511

Table 6.5 Median waiting time to pancreas only and kidney/pancreas transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2023

Ethnicity	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Adult			
White	736	487	443 - 531
Asian	54	464	246 - 682
Black	40	387	149 - 625
Other	15	418	237 - 599
TOTAL¹	855	478	445 - 511

¹ Includes 10 recipients with unknown ethnicity

6.3 Donor and organ supply

Of the 727 organ donors after brain death in the UK in 2024-2025, 206 (28%) donated a pancreas. There were 103 pancreas donors after circulatory death in 2024-2025. **Table 6.6** shows this activity by country/NHS region of the donor's residence. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations.

The overall rate for pancreas donors after brain death is 3.0 pmp, with rates ranging from 1.7 to 4.0 pmp across NHS regions and for donors after circulatory death is 1.5 pmp, with rates ranging from 0.7 to 2.7 pmp across NHS regions.

Table 6.6 Pancreas donation rates for deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, by Country/ NHS region						
Country/ NHS region of residence	DBD		Pancreas donors (pmp)		TOTAL	
			DCD			
North East and Yorkshire	25	(3.0)	16	(1.9)	41	(5.0)
North West	13	(1.7)	8	(1.1)	21	(2.8)
Midlands	40	(3.6)	11	(1.0)	51	(4.7)
East of England	13	(2.0)	17	(2.7)	30	(4.7)
London	16	(1.8)	6	(0.7)	22	(2.5)
South East	32	(3.4)	12	(1.3)	44	(4.7)
South West	23	(4.0)	13	(2.3)	36	(6.3)
England	162	(2.8)	83	(1.5)	245	(4.3)
Isle of Man	1	(12.5)	1	(12.5)	2	(25.0)
Channel Islands	1	(5.9)	0	(0.0)	1	(5.9)
Wales	11	(3.5)	2	(0.6)	13	(4.2)
Scotland	16	(2.9)	7	(1.3)	23	(4.2)
Northern Ireland	5	(2.6)	2	(1.0)	7	(3.7)
TOTAL¹	206	(3.0)	103	(1.5)	309	(4.6)

¹ Includes 18 donors with unknown UK postcode (10 DBD and 8 DCD)

6.4 Transplants

The number of pancreas and islet transplants by recipient country/NHS region of residence is shown in **Table 6.7**. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations. For donors after brain death, the transplant rate ranged from 1.0 to 1.9 pmp across NHS regions and overall was 1.4 pmp. For donors after circulatory death, the overall rate was 0.7 pmp and ranged from 0.3 to 0.9 pmp across NHS regions.

Country/ NHS region of residence	DBD		DCD		TOTAL	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	9	(1.1)	6	(0.7)	15	(1.8)
North West	13	(1.7)	2	(0.3)	15	(2.0)
Midlands	12	(1.1)	10	(0.9)	22	(2.0)
East of England	12	(1.9)	6	(0.9)	18	(2.8)
London	11	(1.2)	6	(0.7)	17	(1.9)
South East	12	(1.3)	4	(0.4)	16	(1.7)
South West	6	(1.0)	4	(0.7)	10	(1.7)
England	75	(1.3)	38	(0.7)	113	(2.0)
Isle of Man	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Wales	4	(1.3)	2	(0.6)	6	(1.9)
Scotland	16	(2.9)	6	(1.1)	22	(4.0)
Northern Ireland	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
TOTAL¹	96	(1.4)	46	(0.7)	142	(2.1)

¹ Includes 1 DBD recipient with unknown UK postcode

There were 142 deceased donor pancreas and islet transplants in 2024-2025, less than the 160 transplants performed in 2023-2024. Of these 142, 113 (80%) were SPK transplants, 6 (4%) were pancreas only transplants (pancreas alone (PTA) or pancreas after kidney (PAK)) and 23 (16%) were islet transplants (including 9 SIK). The number of transplants performed at each centre is shown in **Table 6.8** by transplant type and **Table 6.9** by transplant and donor type. Note that King's College only perform islet transplants. Cambridge, Guy's, WLRTC and Cardiff only perform pancreas transplants.

The length of time that elapses between a pancreas being removed from the donor to its transplantation into the recipient is called the total preservation time. Generally, the shorter this time, the more likely the pancreas is to work immediately and the better the long-term outcome. In 2024-2025, the median time for a DBD donor whole pancreas transplant is 11.6 hours (Inter-Quartile (IQ) range 9.1 – 14.1) and for a DCD donor transplant is 10.9 hours (IQ range 8.6 – 13.4) and overall is 10.9 hours (IQ range 9.1 – 13.4).

At 31 March 2025, there were approximately 2,200 recipients with a functioning pancreas transplant (including multi-organ transplants) being followed-up, as reported to the UK Transplant Registry.

Table 6.8 Pancreas and islet transplants, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 (2023-2024) by centre												
Centre	SPK		SIK		Transplant type				Islet			
					PTA		PAK		Routine		Priority	
Cambridge	21	(18)	-	-	0	(0)	0	(1)	-	-	-	-
Cardiff	7	(12)	-	-	0	(0)	0	(0)	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	10	(8)	3	(4)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(4)	5	(2)
Guy's	12	(10)	-	-	0	(0)	0	(0)	-	-	-	-
King's College	-	-	0	(0)	-	-	-	-	0	(0)	0	(0)
Manchester	20	(27)	3	(5)	1	(0)	0	(3)	0	(1)	2	(1)
Newcastle	4	(7)	0	(0)	0	(1)	2	(0)	1	(0)	0	(1)
Oxford	33	(40)	3	(1)	2	(4)	0	(2)	1	(2)	1	(0)
WLRTC	6	(6)	-	-	0	(0)	1	(0)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	113	(128)	9	(10)	3	(5)	3	(6)	6	(7)	8	(4)
WLRTC - West London Renal and Transplant Centre												

Table 6.9 Pancreas and islet transplants, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 by centre and donor type										
Centre	Transplant and donor type									
	SPK		SIK		PTA/PAK		Islet		TOTAL	
	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD
Cambridge	11	10	-	-	0	0	-	-	11	10
Cardiff	3	4	-	-	0	0	-	-	3	4
Edinburgh	8	2	1	2	0	0	7	2	16	6
Guy's	9	3	-	-	0	0	-	-	9	3
King's College	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0
Manchester	16	4	3	0	1	0	1	1	21	5
Newcastle	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	3
Oxford	22	11	3	0	1	1	1	1	27	13
WLRTC	5	1	-	-	0	1	-	-	5	2
TOTAL	77	36	7	2	3	3	9	5	96	46
WLRTC - West London Renal and Transplant Centre										

6.5 Demographic characteristics

The age group, sex, ethnicity and blood group of deceased donors, transplant recipients and patients on the transplant list are shown in **Table 6.10**.

Table 6.10 Demographic characteristics of deceased pancreas donors and transplant recipients, 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, and transplant list patients at 31 March							
		Donors		Transplant recipients		Active transplant list patients	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Age	0-17	20	(6)	0	-	0	-
	18-34	86	(28)	35	(25)	85	(23)
	35-49	132	(43)	72	(51)	201	(54)
	50-59	69	(22)	32	(23)	73	(20)
	60-69	2	(1)	3	(2)	11	(3)
	Mean (SD)	39	(13)	42	(9)	42	(9)
Sex	Male	180	(58)	70	(49)	197	(54)
	Female	129	(42)	72	(51)	170	(46)
	Unknown		-		-	3	-
Ethnicity	White	272	(90)	117	(85)	294	(80)
	Asian	15	(5)	8	(6)	19	(5)
	Black	5	(2)	6	(4)	24	(7)
	Other	5	(2)	4	(3)	5	(1)
	Unknown	12	-	7	-	28	-
Blood group	O	116	(38)	47	(33)	225	(61)
	A	144	(47)	67	(47)	102	(28)
	B	40	(13)	19	(13)	42	(11)
	AB	8	(3)	9	(6)	1	(0)
	Unknown	1	-		-		-
Graft number	First graft		-	123	(87)	338	(91)
	Re-graft		-	19	(13)	32	(9)
TOTAL		309	(100)	142	(100)	370	(100)