

Update from the Organ Utilisation Development Team

Dear CLUs

The recent release of the ISOU actions represents a pivotal moment in the field of transplantation. Unlike previous documents that offered only recommendations, the OU report presents clear, actionable directives that will engage all stakeholders involved in transplantation. Central to these efforts are the Clinical Leads for Utilisation (CLUs), crucial role in supporting the implementation of outlined strategies'.

A key aspect of these strategies will be trust engagement. CLUs have consistently pointed out the obstacles that transplant teams encounter in optimizing organ utilization. Issues surrounding access to operating theatres and workforce capacity have been frequently noted, and it is imperative that these challenges are addressed. Trust executive boards will now be tasked with formulating transplant strategies that align with the new guidelines.

In tandem with these initiatives, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) will establish working groups focused on leveraging new technologies and enhancing the role of Assessment and Recovery Centres (ARCs). These efforts aim not only to improve transplant outcomes but also to foster sustainability and resilience within the transplantation service.

A critical element in the decision-making process regarding organ acceptance lies with the clinicians and the potential recipients. However, there exists a significant gap in training for clinicians in this domain. To address this, the organ utilization group is developing an educational plan designed to disseminate knowledge and best practices in organ utilisation.

Equally important is the need for patient engagement in the transplantation process. Engaging patients in OU presents a unique set of challenges, as perspectives can differ widely across various organ types and patient demographics. While an abundance of information is available, issues of consistency, accessibility, and the integration of patient viewpoints are areas that require attention.

Overall, this is an exhilarating time for the field of transplantation. As advocates for organ utilization and transplantation, the CLU community is poised to drive meaningful changes that will shape the future of transplantation within their own institutions and nationwide across the UK. Their efforts will be integral in creating optimal and efficient organ utilisation in the future.

Nick Inston, National Clinical Lead for Utilisation (abdominal), & Vicky Gerovasili, National Clinical Lead for Utilisation (cardiothoracic)

Updates from Carrie

OUDT have enjoyed a busy few months since our last update. Following on from the CLU survey, Laura and I held two CLU focus groups to further develop some of the themes that came from the survey. These themes included: Inter-unit CLU support; Education and training; Non-consultant CLU support; CLU role, structure and direction; Research. Related output so far include:

- CLU job description and CLU handbook refreshed and circulated (*about to be added to the OUDT webpage*)
- Annual 121s introduced for all CLUs with proforma circulated
- Development of community calls to provide more structure, with initiatives such as additional membership from OUDT, increased stats role and provision awareness

The survey has been accepted for publication at ESOT2025 as both an eposter and also in a printed format to be displayed during the congress. NHSBT have an events stand throughout ESOT representing the clinical team. Do come and say hello!



I'm sure most CLUs are aware of the recent completion of the Local organ utilisation meetings standardised framework [OU meetings standardised framework](#). This has now been circulated to all trusts. Many thanks to those who worked hard to create this document.

Carrie Scuffell, Transplant Development Nurse

CLINICAL LEADS FOR UTILISATION NEWSLETTER

Organ Utilisation
Development Team

Supporting colleagues and working
together to make the best use of every
precious organ offered.



Blood and Transplant

January 2025 — Page 2/3

OU Stats Team Corner

It has been an exciting time for the OU stats team, with many big projects underway.



In May, Jenny presented two statistical workshops at the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network (UKODTRN) meeting on 'Maximising the research potential of the UK Transplant Registry'.

There have been initial discussions around extending the Offer Review Scheme spreadsheets which highlight offers that were declined for 'Higher Quality' organs. These discussions have involved 1) including 'higher quality' islet donors, 2) identifying organs that were declined 'late' (livers only).

We are working on annual, centre specific, offer decline reports for all organs. The Kidney reports are being finalised, and we are currently working on the liver reports. These reports will summarise the reasons for offer decline, as well as summarising the 3-month and 12-month outcomes for the declined organs that went on to be transplanted elsewhere. These will be uploaded to the SharePoint site which was created last year to contain the monthly and quarterly centre offer reports.

To address one of the OUG recommendations, we are working on Trust Reports which will summarise centre-specific organ utilisation metrics for the CEO of each Trust.

CLU Spotlight

Pippa Bailey, Kidney
CLU at Bristol

I'm an academic nephrologist and have recently taken on the CLU role at Southmead Hospital, Bristol. My research is focused on improving access to and outcomes following kidney transplantation, so the CLU role clearly aligns with my research interests. I'd been organising and chairing our unit's OU meetings for about 5 years before formally taking on the CLU role. Back in 2017/8 our unit was declining more than 60% of DBD kidneys offered for transplantation. Through our meetings we identified common and repeated reasons for decline, including blood borne virus risk, and acute kidney injury. We directly addressed these issues with unit protocols, example scripts to use when discussing risks with patients, and unit education. We have seen OU rates increase steadily over the last 6 years. In 2023/2024 we declined 35% of DBD kidneys which is so encouraging to see. Our OU meetings are lively and popular, and engage our whole transplant MDT. They're a great opportunity for us all to learn, but particularly an opportunity to train nephrology and surgical residents about organ offers, and to highlight tools to support decision-making. Being involved in OU clinical work has highlighted to me the need to further our understanding of the reasons for offer declines, as well as the need for interventions to increase the likelihood of organ acceptance; as an academic, I am now working with colleagues to develop research to address these needs.



Organ Utilisation Group Recommendations: Trust Organ Utilisation Strategies

Following ministerial approval of the ISOU Trust Engagement Subgroup recommendations, each UK Trust or Board with a transplant unit within it is expected to develop an organ utilisation strategy. Further information regarding these [recommendations can be found here](#): The supporting documentation provides clear guidance on what the Trust/Board should expect to include as part of its strategy, and we encourage you to spend time considering this information. The timelines and process for strategy submission have not been confirmed at this time, and we await clarification from ISOU for this.

We are conscious the development of these strategies will require focus from your Trusts/Boards over the coming months, but we hope that you share our feelings that this is a pivotal and exciting moment, with Organ Utilisation recognised as so important at every transplant centre. If you feel that the Organ Utilisation Development Team can offer further assistance at this time, please do reach out to your Organ Lead CLU to discuss. We will also discuss latest updates within CLU community calls.

Dates for your Diary - Next CLU Community Calls:

CT
9 Sep

Kidney
8 July

Pancreas
24 July

Liver
19 Aug -
TBC

January 2025 — Page 3/3

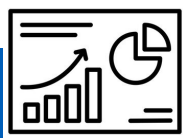
New Advances: Surgical Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Transplantation

Update from Espeed Khoshbin, Marius Berman, and Aaron Ranasinghe

In 2009 the Joint committee for higher surgical training recognised the need to train transplant surgeons to meet the demands of the NHS. A transplant specific training was developed that recruited trainees interested in a career in transplantation. In 2021 we reported a review of the fellowship and made recommendation. The fellowship was successfully training competent transplant surgeons for the future. However, lack of cardiothoracic transplant surgeons remains a national problem. The highly demanding and unsociable life-style makes this career attractive to only a few inspired individuals. In 2024 together with the Speciality Advisory Committee (SAC) in cardiothoracic surgery we began to reform transplant surgical training in the UK.

A training curriculum was developed with the help of the education sub-committee of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (SCTS). The curriculum was acceptable to the transplant community, quality assessed by the SAC and approved by the SCTS executive. This “Advanced National Fellowships will provide quality-assured training in Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support (CT-MCS) in the UK”.

In June 2025 the first Fellow was appointed to this position through competitive interviews. This Fellow will start training in October 2025 at Harefield National Heart and Lung Institute. Funding has been approved for two fellows by NHS England hence, there will be a second round of interviews to appoint the next Advanced Surgical Fellow. Only centres that express interest to host the fellowships will take part. Centres with a successful training history and a well-planned job description will compete to host the next Fellowship.



If you have a CLU project in progress or thinking about getting started, don't forget to register it to the central repository—there is a brief and simple template to complete—and it helps us share best practice and demonstrate the value of the CLU scheme.

Want to stay up to date with **what's happening in the ARCs Programme?** Register for the quarterly webinars — email arcs@nhsbt.nhs.uk.



The next webinar is 22 July, 4pm-5pm.

In Case You Missed It: Watch the 20 May launch webinar:-



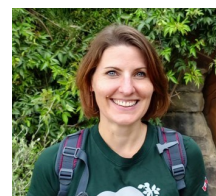
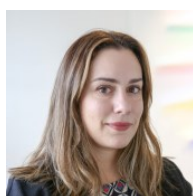
Chris Callaghan is Associate Medical Director for Organ Utilisation and provides leadership to the Organ Utilisation Development Team. The Core Organ Utilisation Development Team are:

Vicky Gerovasili
National Clinical Lead for
Utilisation (cardiothoracic)

Nick Inston
National Clinical Lead for
Utilisation (abdominal)

Carrie Scuffell
Transplant Development
Nurse

Laura Barton
Organ Utilisation
Programme Manager



Organ Lead CLUs, also part of the OUDT Leadership team include:

Anya Adair (Liver), David Van Dellen (Pancreas), Vicky Gerovasili (Lung), Andy Morley-Smith (Heart) and Nick Inston (Kidney).

For more information visit the website: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/transplantation/organ-utilisation-development-team/>

Alternatively get in touch or follow us on social media to stay up to date:



@OUDT-NHSBT



@OUDT_NHSBT



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