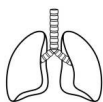


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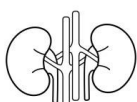
Update from the Organ Utilisation Development Team



Dear CLUs



Welcome to the first CLU six-monthly newsletter. We are in a challenging yet exciting time for transplantation. Going forward the recommendations and strategies of the Organ Utilisation Group (OUG) will move from report to actions and CLUs will be central in the implementation of these within their own services and Trusts & Health Boards.



As a community we hope that we can share the successes as well as the frustrations. The NHSBT annual organ utilisation report will soon be published as well as other projects to produce metrics enabling better understanding of inter unit variation and benchmarking using national data.



The Organ Utilisation Development Team (OUDT) intends to deliver a number of projects in 2025 around the theme of defining, promoting and improving optimal organ utilisation. The CLU community will be essential to achieving this and we look forward to working with you all to champion and promote OU in your regions and nationally.



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

Updates from Carrie



You may be aware of the NHSBT Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS) in Transplantation project aiming to encourage and facilitate the implementation of ERAS in Transplantation across all organ types. **We recently published our first pathway and toolkit for kidney transplantation [Enhanced Recovery After Surgery - ODT Clinical - NHS Blood and Transplant](#). This resource is for clinicians to help them implement the pathway in their local centres.**

Further workstreams are in development, using the same model for the Adult Liver transplant recipient and Living Kidney donor. Workstreams for lung and pancreas transplant recipients are also being set up.

With its strong evidence base, as a CLU consider:

- Does your centre have an ERAS programme?
- How can you promote ERAS and its principles within your centre?
- Have you included ERAS in your local OU strategy?



**NHSBT CLU Score-
card metrics:**

- The number of CLUs in post
- Meeting attendance
- Number of CLU projects
- Lead CLU PDPRs
- ORS number of letters sent
- ORS number of missed opportunities (including clinical vs non-clinical)

In other news OUDT are keen to capture output and demonstrate value and success, to support longevity of the CLU scheme. Every month, there is a data scorecard that goes to senior management within NHSBT. We are in the process of adding to this scorecard to include CLU related data. In recognition of the success of the Offer Review Scheme (ORS) the updated scorecard will also include metrics in relation to this. We hope that by adding this additional data, we can demonstrate some of the output from all the hard work that exists within the CLU scheme.

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.

The CLU Survey Focus Group meeting is on 19 February, 12pm-1pm. If you are interested in attending (no preparation necessary) please **[get in touch](#)**.

Carrie Scuffell, Transplant Development Nurse, OUDT

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

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OU Stats Team Corner



The OU stats team consists of Jenny Mehew (Lead Statistician), Konstantina Soumilas (Support Statistician) and Paul Smith (Support Statistician). It has been a very exciting time for the OU stats team as we have sent out the draft of the very first Organ Utilisation Annual Report, for review. The finalised report will be published on the ODT Clinical website once feedback has been actioned, and Jenny will be launching the report via a presentation at the BTS Congress in March. Going forward, the report will be published every September in line with the other NHSBT organ specific reports.



Just before Christmas, we launched a new SharePoint site for centres to access data on their offer declines. Centres are only able to access the folders that contain their own data. This covers offers that were:

- declined by the centre and transplanted elsewhere
- accepted by the centre but not transplanted
- accepted by the centre but transplanted elsewhere



These offer decline spreadsheets will be uploaded to the SharePoint site every month. Every 3 months, we will also be uploading quarterly follow-up offer reports which look at 3-month transplant outcomes of the declined organs previously highlighted in the monthly spreadsheets. These spreadsheets include information required to access donor records in Transplant Path. All CLUs should have access to their centre's folder – please email Jenny if this is not the case (Jennifer.mehew@nhsbt.nhs.uk).

As we look forward to 2025, we are planning for new projects that will help address the OUG recommendations.



CLU Spotlight

Nick Inston, *National Clinical Lead for Utilisation (abdominal)*



“The impetus for me to consider the CLU role was to understand the process of organ utilisation better. Being from a large transplant unit and receiving lots of queries about organ decline I felt I could either grumble about it or I could try to do something.

It was a challenge for me to understand the difference between units that we see in NHSBT annual reports and the reasons for them. The view that the only differences between units was clinician attitudes didn't sit comfortably with my experience and discussion with colleagues from around the country. As the CLU program has evolved this has been reinforced. The variation between units is wide and it is little wonder there is differences in practice. The CLU project feels to have allowed an open community to develop and share these issues and learn from each other. The review scheme has moved to be a supportive process for clinicians and generating culture change within units.

I think it's an exciting time for transplantation. We have multiple challenges in healthcare but the momentum that is being generated by the CLUs alongside the implementation of the OU report within trusts should ensure that transplantation remains a priority.”

Vicky Gerovasili *National Clinical Lead for Utilisation (cardiothoracic)*



“The drive for my involvement in the CLU scheme has come from seeing lung failure patients in clinic for which we could not find an organ in time. I was aware that the number of transplants per million population in the UK were low compared to other countries and therefore there was room for all of us as a transplant community to do better. Applying for the lung CLU role was therefore a no brainer for me.

I started off as a local CLU for my unit and a year later I applied and got appointed as National Lung CLU. The role gave me insights into what excellence in lung utilisation should look like, what are the barriers in achieving excellence and how other solid organs like kidneys and livers were achieving excellent utilisation rates. I was also provided with information and tools to affect change.

Change is slow and this is something I struggled with. There is so much more we can do for our patients. The OUG report was a breath of much needed fresh air and an exciting opportunity to transform cardiothoracic transplantation in the UK. A senior colleague has described it as “once in a generation opportunity to transform heart and lung transplant in the UK”. I am excited to be part of the change and I welcome all you all on board.”

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Decline Meetings Framework Update



Following the update at NOUC 2024, the framework for organ decline meetings has now been finalised and is awaiting sign off within NHSBT, at the end of January 2025. Watch out for further updates after this time.

Dates for your diary

We will see you 12-14 March 2025 at the BTS/NHSBT Joint Congress in Brighton. A member of the Organ Utilisation Development Team will be available at the NHSBT stand at a specific time, and we will confirm the timeslot to you closer to the conference date.

We are launching a **CLU Webinar Learning Series for 2025**. The topics are below, with further information and invitations to be shared soon — watch this space!

- April 2025: Abdominal national complex case discussion — Wednesday 9 April, 5pm-6pm. Find out more and register here or scan the QR code: <https://CLU2025AbdoComplexCase.eventbrite.com>
- June 2025: Organ Utilisation Development Team Drop in session—Ask us anything
- August 2025: How to engage patients in your CLU role
- September 2025: National Organ Utilisation Conference
- October 2025: What is Organ Utilisation (for wider MDT and Management Teams)
- December 2025: Organ Utilisation Development Team Drop in session—Ask us anything



Next CLU Community Calls:

CT
4 March 2025

Kidney
16 April 2025

Pancreas
TBC—face to face

Liver
25 March 2025

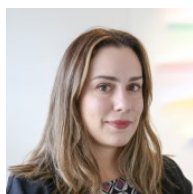
Chris Callaghan is Associate Medical Director for Organ Utilisation and provides leadership to the Organ Utilisation Development Team. The Core Organ Utilisation Development Team are:

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), and Nick Inston (Kidney)

The Heart Lead CLU role is under recruitment at time of writing.

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
 organutilisationdevelopmentteam@nhsbt.nhs.uk