

## **Report to CTAG Hearts – April 2024**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report outlines the key work undertaken by the CTPG Chair, CTPG members and CTPG meetings since the last CTAG Hearts meeting.

### **2. Adult Cardiothoracic Funding Mechanism**

- 2.1 The CTPG remain extremely concerned with the proposed single adult cardiothoracic transplant tariff (currently a guide price). The tariff appears to include assessment, preoperative stay, operative costs, post operative stay, and the cost of the long-term VAD service (excluding devices).
- 2.2 The CTPG Chair has previously written to NHSE outlining concerns. One of the major concerns is that a single tariff fundamentally undermines the cornerstone of the funding regime which is sufficient granularity to account for variation in patient complexity and disability.
- 2.3 As an example, for a coronary bypass graft operation there are 30 different unit / guide prices to account for a range of complexities / co morbidities. These prices also only relate to the surgical spell and exclude critical care costs and unbundled services which are reimbursed separately. Each HRG has an individualised trim point, where upon additional bed days are charged at a unit rate.
- 2.4 The adult heart transplant population and each unit's case mix is heterogeneous. Below are examples of the range of key cost drivers between centres.
- Prior cardiac surgery at point of registration varies from 10% to 50% (2023/24 Annual Heart Transplant Report Table 3.1)
  - Median urgent waiting time from registration to transplant 25 days to 76 days (2023/24 Annual Heart Transplant Report Table 3.2)
- 2.5 Following the Spring 2024 CTAG Hearts meeting, the CTAG Chairs and CTPG Chair wrote to NHSE requesting active engagement to discuss and further develop the adult heart transplant tariff. The Somerville Heart Foundation have also written to NHSE to outcomes concerns regarding the tariff.
- 2.6 NHSE HSS team suggested concerns are raised directing with the NHSE Pricing and Costing Team. The CTPG Chair has contacted this team and despite chasing, to date no response has been received.
- 2.7 The DHSC are hosting a transplant commissioning symposium in November 2024, the CTPG Chair has been invited to speak at the event, which will be hosted by Professor Sir Stephen Powis.
- 2.8 The CTPG will continue to seek engagement with NHSE.

### **3. Other Key Engagement and Representation**

- 3.1 Engagement across the country has continued with the CTPG Chair attending various support group meetings and regularly liaising with related charities and stakeholders.
- 3.2 Many CTPG members and other cardiothoracic transplant patients continue to be actively involved in promoting organ donation.
- 3.3 The CTPG Chair attended and spoke at the Annual Somerville Heart Foundation Conference in May 2024.
- 3.4 The CTPG continues to be a formal stakeholder in NICE appraisals relating to Covid prevention and treatment, submitting a consultation response to the upcoming appraisal of Sipavibart. NICE have invited the CTPG Chair to join the Committee for the upcoming appraisal of Molnupiravir.
- 3.5 The CTPG Chair attended the NHSE Annual Review Meeting for Mechanical Circulatory Support in June 2024.
- 3.6 The CTPG Chair has written to the CTAG Hearts Chair with questions / concerns regarding paediatric heart transplant outcomes (30 July) and relating to the 2022/23 Annual MCS Report (29 February). Responses have yet to be received for either.
- 3.7 The CTPG Chair, other cardiothoracic transplant patients and stakeholder organisations are engaged and actively involved in ISOU work at all levels.

### **4. CTPG Meeting September 2024**

- 4.1 The CTPG last met on 11 September 2024, the draft minutes and action log are shown in Appendices 1 & 2.