

Report to CTAG Hearts – March 2025

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 Chair, and other key patient representatives submitted a consultation response to NHSE regarding the 2025/26 NHS Payment Scheme. The response is shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The CTPG Chair has previously written on multiple occasions to NHSE outlining concerns with the proposed guide prices. 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 The CTPG does not believe the proposed guide prices are fit for purpose and recommend that the NHSE Cardiothoracic Transplant Transformation Programme include funding mechanisms as one of the enabling work streams.
- 2.4 The CTPG Chair spoke at the DHSC Transplant Commissioning Symposium in November 2024. The presentation is shown in Appendix 2. The DHSC Commissioning Symposium will have recommendations in due course.

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 Two heart transplant patient / family members were speakers at the BTS / NHSBT Congress in Brighton, Lucy Ryan (recipient) and Dr Tamsin Courtenay (wife of heart transplant recipient).
- 3.4 The CTPG Chair described his transplant pathway experience at an online open meeting of The European Congenital Heart Disease Organisation, the video is available online, [ECHDO Member Webinar with Robert Burns 19 February 2025](#)
- 3.5 The CTPG Chair attended the NHSE Annual Review Meeting for Paediatric Cardiothoracic Transplantation in January 2025.
- 3.6 Two Patient and Public Voice Representatives have been appointed by NHSE to the Cardiothoracic Transplant Transformation Programme – the CTPG Chair and Rosie FitzGerald (post lung transplant).

3.7 The CT ISOU Patient Representative has been invited to speak at the DSHC Workforce Template Symposium in May 2025.