

Terms of reference for a fixed-term working group to review the allocation policy of donor hearts in the UK (POL228/17)

Following a request from clinicians at Great Ormond Street Hospital to review the allocation policy of adult donor hearts in the UK and after subsequent discussion at the CTAG Centre Directors Meeting it was agreed that a FTWG would be convened to review the allocation policy of adult donor hearts as per POL228/17, with reference to the offering sequence for the three patient age categories.

Background

In the UK, there are currently three patient categories for which a patient can be registered adult, small adult and paediatric. Patients are also sub-categorised into a scheme based on their clinical urgency (super-urgent (SU), urgent (U) and non-urgent (NU)).

The current allocation scheme for adult DBD and DCD hearts (donor $\geq$ 16 years of age) is well documented in Figures 1 and 2 of POL228/17 ([DAT/](#)).

In summary, DBD hearts are offered to patients in the SU and U adult categories first, then to the SU and U paediatric and small adult patients, followed by NU patients (zonally, then GOSH, then remaining centres). For DCD allocation hearts are offered first to adult SU patients, then paediatric SU patients, followed by centre offers (zonally, then GOSH, then remaining centres).

Scope

A FTWG will be convened to:

- Review the current allocation scheme for adult DBD and DCD hearts, with specific reference to the prioritisation of allocation of donor hearts by patient age category.
- The review will provide an opinion as to whether there is a requirement to implement any change to the current allocation policy (POL228/17).

Membership of the FTWG

The group will be chaired by Stephen Pettit, Consultant Transplant Cardiologist, Royal Papworth Hospital and Deputy Chair of CTAG.

- All adult and paediatric centres will be asked to provide a representative.
- NHS BT Statistics
- ODT Hub Operations

Observers

- Patient representative (expressions of interest to be made to CTAG Patient Group), both adult and paediatric heart transplant recipients (or their Parent/Guardian) should be involved as observers of the process.
- OTDT Clinical Team.

Timeline

The group will provide a draft report of their findings and recommendations to the CTAG Heart 2025 Autumn Meeting.

Membership

Stephen Pettit, Consultant Cardiologist (Chair and Papworth)

Sern Lim, Consultant Cardiologist (Birmingham)

Jonathan Dalzell, Consultant Cardiologist (Glasgow)

Jacob Simmonds, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist (Great Ormond Street Hospital)

Maria Monteagudo, Consultant Surgeon (Harefield)

Paul Callan, Consultant Cardiologist (Manchester)

Mohamed Nassar, Consultant Surgeon (Newcastle (A/P))

Zdenka Reinhardt, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist (Newcastle (P))

Sally Rushton, Principal Statistician, Statistics and Research (NHS BT)

Julie Whitney, Head of Service Delivery – ODT Hub (NHS BT)

Patient Observers

Kathryn Green (mother of Paediatric Heart Transplant Recipient)

Eloise Allen (Paediatric Heart Transplant Recipient)

Sarah Aref (Adult Heart Transplant Recipient)