

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP – HEART

ADJUDICATION PANEL REFERRALS 1 JANUARY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. The following cases require approval from the CTAG-Heart Adjudication Panel in order for the patient to be registered onto the urgent or super-urgent heart transplant list:
 - Urgent (or super-urgent) heart-lung registrations
 - Urgent heart-liver registrations
 - Super-urgent category 12 registrations (which includes all paediatrics)
 - Urgent adult registrations under category 22 or 23
 - Urgent paediatric registrations under category 59
 - Small adult registrations weighing 30-40kg
 - Urgent or super-urgent registrations for re-transplant
2. The Adjudication Panel is made up of the CTAG Chair plus one representative from each of the 7 designated heart transplant centres. The registering centre must provide the panel with relevant details by email. The patient may be registered if the majority agree on the case for listing but if the panel cannot reach a consensus, the CTAG Chair has the casting vote.
3. For paediatric patients (urgent or super-urgent) requiring a small donor (height<160cm and weight<60kg), rather than the full Adjudication Panel, the case must be referred to the CTAG Chair and a representative from the other paediatric centre for approval. Otherwise, the full CTAG Heart Adjudication Panel must be approached.
4. Since October 2016, Statistics and Clinical Research (S&CR) have maintained records of all Adjudication Panel referrals and whether the request was approved or rejected. Note that re-transplant cases have only required approval since 29 March 2023.

DATA

5. This paper reports on adult and paediatric, urgent and super-urgent, heart Adjudication Panel referrals between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024. It also reports on urgent or super-urgent heart-lung and re-transplant referrals.
6. Information on whether the patient was on a long-term ventricular assist device (VAD) at time of referral is included, for adults only. For reference, data on all registrations, including both those approved by the panel and those meeting standard listing, are provided for the time period, for each patient group.
7. 90-day survival information is presented for those patients that were approved and subsequently received a heart transplant.

RESULTS

8. Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024, there were 90 adult referrals and 30 paediatric referrals to the Heart Adjudication Panel for urgent or super-urgent heart listing. Of the 90 adult referrals, 81 were for urgent listing and 9 for super-urgent listing with approval rates of 81.5% and 55.6% respectively as shown in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

Of the 30 paediatric referrals, 12 were for urgent and 18 for super-urgent cases, as shown in **Table 3** and **Table 4**, respectively. All except 2 were approved.

9. Of the 81 urgent adult referrals, 37 (45.6%) patients had a long-term VAD implanted at time of application. For the super-urgent adult referrals, 2 of the 9 patients had a long-term VAD implanted at the time of application.
10. In the time period, 11 referrals were made for urgent or super-urgent heart-lung listing and 9 (81.8%) were approved as shown in **Table 5**. There were no urgent or super-urgent heart-lung registrations without prior approval, as indicated by the far-right column.
11. Between 29 March 2023 and 31 December 2024, 12 referrals were made for urgent or super-urgent re-transplantation. All except 2 were approved as shown in **Table 6**. There were no urgent or super-urgent re-transplant registrations without prior approval, as indicated by the far-right column. Note that these re-transplant cases are duplicated in other tables in the report.
12. Please note that when referring to the tables below, a patient whose appeal was approved may not have been registered due to reasons such as deteriorated health (hence the approved column is not necessarily a subset of the total number of registrations).
13. A total of 139 appeals were reviewed by the adjudication panel, with 116 (83%) approved. This led to 73 transplants being performed across all groups. A total of 4 patients died within 90 days among these cases, all in the urgent adult group, resulting in a 90-day survival rate of 89% for urgent adults approved by the panel (**Table 7**). This compares to a 90-day survival rate of 92% as published in the Annual Report on Heart Transplantation 2023/2024.

ACTION

14. This report is provided for information and to monitor the number of Adjudication Panel referrals and outcomes.

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Table 1 Urgent adult heart adjudication panel referrals and all urgent adult heart registrations by centre, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals (On long-term VAD at time of application)	Number approved		All urgent registrations
		N	%	
Birmingham	7 (2)	5	71.4	63
Glasgow	2 (1)	2	100.0	63
Harefield	24 (10)	20	83.3	84
Manchester	10 (8)	10	100.0	40
Newcastle	25 (11)	16	64.0	88
Papworth	13 (5)	13	100.0	58
Total	81 (37)	66	81.5	396

Table 2 Super-urgent adult heart adjudication panel referrals and all super-urgent adult heart registrations by centre, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals (On long-term VAD at time of application)	Number approved		All super-urgent registrations
		N	%	
Birmingham	2 (1)	1	50.0	31
Glasgow	0 (0)	0	-	25
Harefield	6 (1)	4	66.7	49
Manchester	1 (0)	0	-	24
Newcastle	0 (0)	0	-	17
Papworth	0 (0)	0	-	33
Total	9 (2)	5	55.6	179

Table 3 Urgent paediatric heart adjudication panel referrals and all urgent paediatric heart registrations by centre, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent registrations
		N	%	
Great Ormond Street Hospital	7	7	100.0	57
Newcastle ¹	4	3	75.0	50
Total	11	10	90.9	107

¹ Includes 2 applications for a paediatric patient to be listed on the adult list

Table 4 Super-urgent paediatric heart adjudication panel referrals and all super-urgent paediatric heart by centre, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All super-urgent registrations
		N	%	
Great Ormond Street Hospital ¹	14	14	100.0	15
Newcastle	13	12	92.3	13
Total	27	26	96.3	28²

¹ Includes 3 applications for a paediatric patient to be listed on the adult list
² Includes 4 patients that were registered without panel approval (note that 2 of the 26 that were approved were not listed) and 7 where S&CR were not notified of the appeal but ODT Hub Operations had records of approval

Table 5 Urgent/super-urgent heart-lung adjudication panel referrals and all urgent/super-urgent heart-lung registrations by centre, 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent/super-urgent HL registrations
		N	%	
Birmingham	2	2	100.0	2
Harefield	2	1	50.0	1
Manchester	1	1	100.0	1
Newcastle	4	3	75.0	3
Papworth	2	2	100.0	2
Total	11	9	81.8	9

Table 6 Adjudication panel referrals for urgent/super-urgent re-transplantation and all urgent/super-urgent re-transplant registrations by centre, 29 March 2023 – 31 December 2024				
Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent re-transplant heart registrations
		N	%	
Harefield	6	5	83.3	5
Manchester	1	1	100.0	1
Newcastle ¹	4	3	75.0	3
Papworth	1	1	100.0	1
Total	12²	10	83.3	10

¹ Includes 2 paediatric patients

² Includes 2 duplicate patients who appealed for super-urgent registration, but were approved for urgent registration instead; the super-urgent appeals are treated as rejected while the urgent appeals are treated as approved

Table 7 Number of transplants and 90-day outcome post-transplant for patients transplanted following adjudicated panel approval, by group					
Group	Number of appeals	Number of appeals approved	Number of Transplants	Number of deaths within 90 days of transplant	% 90-day survival rate¹ (95% CI)
Urgent Adult Heart	81	66	39	4	89 (74-96)
Super-urgent Adult Heart	9	5	3	0	-
Urgent Paediatric Heart	11	10	8	0	-
Super-urgent Paediatric Heart	27	26	16	0	-
Urgent/Super-urgent Heart-Lung	11	9	7	0	-

¹ 90-day survival rate for groups with less than 20 are not presented due to small numbers