

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE RETRIEVAL ADVISORY GROUP (RAG)
ON THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2023
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

MINUTES

Present:

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| Marius Berman (Chair) | Associate Clinical Lead for Organ Retrieval |
| Elijah Ablorsu | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Cardiff |
| Waqas Akhtar | Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital |
| Liz Armstrong | Head of Transplant Development, NHSBT |
| Richard Baker | AMD Governance, NHSBT |
| Sarah Beale | Service Development Manager, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Helen Bullock | Product Owner, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Andrew Butler | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Addenbrookes; Chair, Multi-visceral Advisory Group, NHSBT |
| Chris Callaghan | AMD Organ Utilisation, NHSBT |
| Akila Chandrasekar | Transfusion Medicine Consultant, NHSBT |
| Becky Clarke | Regional Manager, Midlands and South-Central team |
| Sarah Cross | National Operational Co-ordinator, QUOD |
| Ian Currie | AMD Organ Retrieval, NHSBT |
| Jeanette Foley | Deputy Chief Nurse, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Henk Giele | Consultant, Plastic Reconstruction and Hand Surgery, Oxford |
| Shamik Ghosh | Lay Member for RAG, NHSBT |
| Michael Hope | Abdominal Recipient Coordinator Representative |
| Chris Johnston | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Edinburgh |
| Jerome Jungschleger | NORS Lead, CT, Newcastle |
| Emma Lawson | Innovation and Research Lead OTDT |
| Debbie Macklam | Head of Service Development, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Cecelia McIntyre | Retrieval & Transplant Project Lead Specialist, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Vipin Mehta | NORS Lead, CT, Manchester |
| Karen Mercer | Lead Transplant Co-ordinator, Kings |
| Lisa Mumford | Statistics and Clinical Research, NHSBT |
| Michela Nosedà | Lecturer, Cardiac Molecular Pathology, Imperial |
| Jas Parmar | Chair, CTAG Lungs Advisory Group, NHSBT |
| Gavin Pettigrew | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Addenbrookes; Chair, RINTAG |
| Karen Quinn | Assistant Director, UK Commissioning, NHSBT |
| Isabel Quiroga | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Oxford |
| Miguel Angel Reyes Roque | Statistics and Clinical Research, NHSBT |
| James Richards | Royal Free Hospital |
| Mark Roberts | Senior Commissioning Manager, OTDT, NHSBT |
| Antonio Rubino | Intensive Care Physician, Royal Papworth Hospital |
| Ben Stutchfield | Consultant Transplant Surgeon, Edinburgh |
| Afshin Tavakoli | NORS Lead, Abdominal, Manchester |
| Chris Watson | Joint Chair, Novel Technology Implementation Group |
| Daniel White | Recipient Transplant Co-ordinator |
| Julie Whitney | Head of Service Delivery, OTDT Hub, NHSBT |
| Bart Zych | NORS Lead, Cardiothoracic, Harefield |

In Attendance:

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| Caroline Robinson | Advisory Group Support, NHSBT (Minutes) |
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| 1. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, APOLOGIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Berman (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting Apologies were noted from Ayesha Ali, Aimen Amer, Miriam Cortes Cerisuelo, Shahid Farid, James Hunter, Derek Manas, Hynek Mergental, Majid Mukadam, Theodora Pissanou, Ian Thomas, Douglas Thorburn, David van Dellen | |
| 1.1 | <u>Announcement of new NORS lead</u> – David Bartlett, the new abdominal lead for Birmingham was announced. | |
| 1.2 | <u>Resignation of Lay member</u> – In her absence, Hannah Poulton was thanked for her previous attendance and hard work at RAG. M Berman acknowledged the important role of lay members in the work of the advisory groups. It is hoped that as there are now two vacancies for lay members, recruitment is planned to replace her. | |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No declarations of interest were reported. <i>RAG members are asked to declare if any information in papers for this meeting is sensitive content that should not be published on the public facing NHSBT OTDT website as soon as possible. A request for papers not included on the website should be made in writing to advisorygroupsupport@nhsbt.nhs.uk</i> | |
| 3. | MINUTES, ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING | |
| 3.1 | <u>Minutes</u> – RAG(M)(23)01 – The Minutes of the last RAG meeting on 8 February 2023 were approved. | |
| 3.2 | <u>Action Points</u> - RAG(AP)(23)01 - The Action Points from the previous meeting on 8 February 2023 were updated as follows: | |
| 3.2.1 | <u>AP1 – MCTAG Update</u> – Donor imaging using CT in circumstances where a modified MV graft is being considered is an aspiration to minimise delays and inappropriate travel for retrieval teams and recipients. A working group to discuss involvement of SNODs, CLODs, and the Donation Action Framework is planned and a response from a representative from the Royal College of Radiologists to join the group is awaited. | ONGOING M Berman / A Butler |
| 3.2.2 | <u>AP2 – NORS Annual Report</u> – Work to investigate why teams are going out but not proceeding with retrieval is ongoing | ONGOING D Manas / M Berman |
| 3.2.3 | <u>AP3 – Blue Light Audit</u> - L Mumford will bring a report regarding the relationship between flights and blue light use to the next RAG meeting. | COMPLETE |
| 3.2.4 | <u>AP4 – Critical Updates</u> – UW/HTK | COMPLETE See Item 5.1 |
| 3.2.5 | <u>AP5 – Clinical Governance Report</u> - Since the last RAG meeting, work has been undertaken to see if there are ways to strengthen the electronic format for the surgical safety checklist to report ABO transcription errors or to return to a paper format until Transplant Path is introduced later this year. The checklist is ready for circulation to NORS teams shortly. | COMPLETE |
| 3.2.6 | <u>AP6 – Super Urgent Liver Report</u> - Whenever CT organs are offered, the length of process time increases significantly (8.8 hours for CT compared with 5.4 hours for abdominal offering). | COMPLETE See also Item 7 |

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| | The wording 'expression of interest' has been removed from the documents but remains for the moment on the computer system. Changing the culture to definite acceptance of an offer will take more time. Further changes to the offering system are coming due to the work on the SCORE programme. | |
| 3.2.7 | <p><u>AP7 - Super Urgent Liver Report –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last meeting it was emphasised that CT teams should arrive for retrieval 2 hours before knife to skin and the abdominal team 1 hour before. However, frequently, both teams arrive at the same time which leads to delays. ACTION: R Hogg will produce a report for the autumn meeting. One factor affecting delays is drivers who state they need to take a break, sometimes after only 2 hours. The legal requirements state 30 minutes to be taken after 5.5 hours and 45 minutes in a journey of 8.5 hours. Teams do not usually stop in a journey lasting 5 hours. Further information is available at Drivers' Hours (dvla-contact-number.co.uk) ACTION: M Roberts to check break times Refreshments were provided in the past, but this is now very poor. Teams are reminded that under Agenda for Change, trusts should reimburse staff for food (lunch £5 or dinner £25) on production of receipts if going off site. ACTION: M Berman/C McIntyre to send teams draft letter for their trusts regarding responsibilities for refreshments Teams can delay the process particularly when it's close to handover | <p>ONGOING</p> <p>a) R Hogg b) M Roberts c) M Berman / C McIntyre</p> |
| 3.2.8 | <u>Organ Damage Report</u> – L Mumford will look at DCD organ specific damage rates by NRP status and there will be a report at the next RAG meeting | ONGOING L Mumford |
| 3.2.9 | <p><u>Organ Damage Imaging Pilot Study Protocol –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E Ablorsu reported that on completion of the pilot there was positive feedback mainly from SNODS and especially from the SW region. 3 teams in Leeds, Manchester and Cardiff have implemented the protocol with wider rollout likely and a report at the next RAG meeting A meeting has also been held with different imaging groups (damage / organ utilisation / research / governance / Transplant Path) to ensure they were all working in the same way. ACTION: D Manas to arrange a follow up meeting with all imaging groups | ONGOING D Manas |
| 3.2.10 | <u>CUSUM Experience Feedback</u> – A Tavakoli's presentation highlighting his team's experience of looking at organ damage within a short period of 3 months has been circulated in an anonymised version to be included on the website. | COMPLETE |
| 3.2.11 | <u>Offering Cardiothoracic Organs for research</u> - Akila Chandrasekar/Andrew Parry have been invited to this RAG meeting to discuss homograft and valve requirements. | COMPLETE <i>See Item 15</i> |
| 3.2.12 | <u>TA-NRP</u> | COMPLETE <i>See Item 11</i> |

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| 3.2.13 | <u>NHSBT Endorsed NRP Accreditation for Surgeons</u> – A small group is taking forward the proposal for the NORS registration process to expand it to include NRP for perfusion practitioners | COMPLETE <i>See also Item 10.7</i> |
| 3.3 | <u>Matters Arising</u> - No issues were raised | |
| 4. | <u>MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</u> | |
| 4.1 | <p>In D Manas' absence, C Callaghan reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CLUs</u> – NHSBT has continued to fund lead CLUs but there is still no funding for local CLUs, although these have continued in their roles. A new lead Liver CLU will be recruited following the departure of R Prasad. • <u>DCD funding</u> – is secure for 2023-24 but sustainable funding beyond this is unconfirmed and remains a concern. • <u>NRP/Histopathology</u> – Although funding has been requested there is no confirmation from NHSE or DHSC, or for histopathology. • <u>OUG</u> – following publication of the OUG report, an implementation steering group, ISOU, has had its first meeting and will decide who will take responsibility for each recommendation. There is no funding attached to this work. • <u>Lung Summit</u> – The CT review is an important part of the OUG work. Following the Lung Summit in February, lung transplant numbers have increased, and the full recommendations will be discussed at CTAG Lungs in June. • <u>Consent</u> – DBD numbers have dropped in the last year while DCD numbers have increased. Overall, consent rates have decreased which is a concern. A meeting is planned with DoH minister, Neil O'Brien to discuss this and other issues. • <u>RINTAG</u> – This advisory group is to be dissolved and replaced with an R&D steering committee to fall in line with other areas of NHSBT. • <u>EOS Mobile/EOS replacement</u> – Transplant Path is progressing well, and implementation is planned for later this year. <i>See Item 14</i> • <u>HHV8</u> – A letter has been circulated by I Ushiro-Lumb/D Manas regarding the introduction of HHV8 screening for deceased donors. Following implementation, results will come back after retrieval. • <u>Junior Doctors' strikes</u> – the next strike planned starts on 14 June. All teams are asked to check the effect of this on the NORS teams. | |
| 4.1 | <u>New appointments</u> – there are no new appointments to report. | |
| 5. | <u>CRITICAL UPDATES</u> | |
| 5.1 | <p><u>HTK/UW</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTK must be kept refrigerated while in storage. Additional fridges were supplied to the NORS teams to enable this to happen. • If fridge capacity is an issue for any of the teams, it is suggested teams contact Pharmapal. | M Berman |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In summary: Manufacturer's instructions are to keep HTK refrigerated while in storage, and to transport on ice. Full storage instructions are circulated with these Minutes <p><u>UW/HTK preference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emma Billingham contacted all retrieval teams earlier this year to find out whether they would prefer to use UW or HTK. She received responses from Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Kings, Leeds, Newcastle and Oxford all stating they would prefer to use UW (other centres have not yet responded). We do not yet have a contract in place with an alternative supplier of UW but intend to go out to tender shortly for this. In summary: NORS teams' preference is for UW. A tender process will be undertaken to secure contracts for all organ perfusion fluid including UW. <p>ACTION: M Berman to write to E Billingham re HTK storage and centres' preferences regarding UW v. HTK</p> | |
| 6. | CLINICAL GOVERNANCE – RAG(23)09 | |
| | <p>The Clinical Governance report is circulated again with these Minutes. Two cases were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the first case a pancreas arrived at the transplant centre with the bile duct attached. It is agreed that the bile duct suture ligation should occur at the point of retrieval. In the second incident, both abdominal and CT teams were present. When the CT team had left and the cavity was being closed, it was found the heart was missing. It was later found in clinical waste. It was emphasized that retrieval teams who remove an organ that is not to be transplanted, are required to replace it in the donor's body out of respect and for traceability. This was previously highlighted after a serious incident in 2020. | |
| 7. | SUSTAINABILITY AND CERTAINTY IN ORGAN RETRIEVAL (SCORE) UPDATE | |
| | <p>D Macklam gave an overview of the Sustainability and Certainty in Organ Retrieval (SCORE) project which aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce operational pressure on the system and provide certainty through planned elective windows for retrieval Re-design the retrieval service model to optimise capacity against donation potential Identify areas where recruitment, retention and development can be improved Ensure service sustainability for NRP and DCD Hearts, then support future innovation, new techniques and technologies to increase organ quality and preservation. To improve survival outcomes for patients; some organs function better if reperfusion does not take place at night. <p>For NORS teams the aim is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide more predictable working patterns to reduce workforce planning pressures Identify best practice models for NORS staffing Increase local Trust awareness and provide acknowledgement through formal service recognition | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further strengthen the network through facilitation of community shared learning <p>The SCORE Programme Board has approved the structure of workstreams which are now in the process of being set up. The initial design and planning phase will last until the end of August with detailed design and planning running from September to March 2024. Implementation is planned for April 2025. Colleagues who wish to be involved in the programme workstreams should contact D Macklam and SCORE will become a standing item on the RAG agenda.</p> | |
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| 8. | ORGAN DAMAGE REPORT – RAG(23)10 | |
| | <p>The report of organ damage rates circulated prior to the meeting, covers the period 22 July 2021 to 31 March 2023. M Angel Reyes Roque was thanked for his work on this. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates of damage free retrievals for DBD organs were high ranging from 87% for pancreas to 97% for heart. DCD donors had slightly lower rates ranging from 85% for lungs to 98% for hearts. Most teams were in line with the national rate for damage free retrieval across donor type and some organs had some significant differences as outlined in the circulated report. <p>The challenges of maintaining competencies in the team when there is low intensity activity for some areas was highlighted.</p> | |
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| 9. | CUSUM MONITORING – RAG(23)11 | |
| | <p>B Stutchfield gave an overview of work that has been done by R Hogg, H Mergental and I Currie over several years to introduce quarterly CUSUM monitoring for abdominal organ loss due to retrieval damage. Details are in the paper circulated. Key points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The methodology compares organ loss due to retrieval damage rates with the expected rate based on national data between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2021. Each quarter, teams will be asked to monitor their organ loss due to retrieval damage. During the first 12 months, there will be no formal monitoring, but teams may be asked to investigate results by the OTDT Medical Director, AMD for Retrieval and the RAG Chair. <p>The following feedback/comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining competencies for surgeons in pancreas retrieval which is a small level of activity, is challenging and this may affect injury rates for centres. A comment was made that challenging data can be lengthy and difficult and requires contacting several different departments. It was clarified that the HTA-B form is a medical record and therefore it needs to be returned to the person who completed it if any change is needed. <p>Centres are encouraged to report damage or to state whether any of the monthly data returns are inaccurate as once they are included in CUSUM it is hard to remove them. J Whitney, M Roberts and Governance also review cases where there is a difference between what is reported and what centres report for moderate and severe damage and ask for clarification. This is not</p> | |

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| | done for mild damage because they are not included in CUSUM reports. | |
| 10. | EDUCATION AND RESEARCH | |
| 10.1 | <u>Masterclass Update</u> – The Masterclass will continue virtually with a series of lecture-based material from 30-Oct-1 Nov (Monday, Tuesday, Weds). However, as it is difficult to deliver operative skills virtually, there will also be 2 days of cadaveric sessions in the Evelyn Cambridge Surgical Training Centre on 4-5 Dec. 50 delegates are planned with around 20 tutors. Some lecture content will be included on techniques for operative management of donors and tutors will be needed for this. Both the virtual and cadaveric sessions are priced lower than the original Masterclass because of the financial support of NHSBT and external sponsors and should deliver around 40 hours of education. Dates will be circulated to everyone in the next couple of weeks. | |
| 10.2 | <u>Lung Retrieval with A-NRP</u> – A one day event was held in Edinburgh for CT community showing a technique being used in Strasbourg by Professor Anne Olland on how to retrieve lungs in the context of abdominal NRP in cadavers. This arose from a discussion about bleeding during lung retrieval. The event has been videoed but not circulated yet as it needs editing and finalisation. There will be another event on a single day basis for those who were unable to attend, but this may require trusts funding this for their attendees for travel and accommodation. | |
| 10.3 | <u>MCOG</u> – The Masterclass Organising Group (MCOG) consisting of I Currie, M Berman, S Beale, E Billingham, NORS leads and other specialist perfusion practitioners meet to plan the Masterclass and other events and educational activities. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DCD with NRP</u> - possible dates: 26 Sept and 2 Oct – this will not be as inclusive as the virtual Masterclass and is likely to be at College of Surgeons in Edinburgh • <u>Delivery of an online knowledge base for retrieval</u>, consisting of a library of video material provided by 'learnPro'. Around 85% of UK hospitals have 'learnPro' accounts for use by retrieval team members, nurses and SNODs, and surgeons who will have dedicated logins. Hospital trusts need to ensure their governance procedures are followed for patient authorisation and donor family permissions. • <u>Retrieval Workbook</u> – S Farid is taking the lead on developing this. It will be a hard copy that attendees will take away | |
| 10.4 | <u>NORS Compliance</u> – There has been an increase in teams challenging a mobilisation call particularly around handover times or asking to renegotiate departure and arrival times. This then results in a lot of work re-organising teams and theatre times. If the system is to work efficiently and according to the contract, teams need to mobilise when the request comes through, and the tariff will be paid. There should be very few reasons for re-negotiation of the time. Work is ongoing to record any changes and the first requested and final times for mustering and the results will be implemented on 31 July. Comments from the group included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT estimates of time needed for travel can be wrong and this may affect a team's arrival time. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel times do not always reflect different road conditions at different times of the day. Teams are asked to speak to SNODs about any significant delay due to traffic. • It can be challenging to pay people for mobilisation; team members may not be paid by their trusts for the period after their contracted time for work with the trust. It was noted that the Hub do their best not to mobilise teams near the time of their handover and will only do so if SNODs insist that it is needed due to instability or a family request. The contract states that teams can be mobilised up to 2 hours before the end of the on-call period and the tariff will be paid for the period after that 2-hour period. • As part of its remit SCORE will look into these issues in various workstreams. <p>NORS leads are asked to remind team members to be civil when talking to non-clinical members of the Hub team.</p> | |
| 10.5 | <p><u>INOAR and Utilisation of Organs for Research</u> – RAG(23)12 – E Lawson gave an update following an internal stakeholder engagement meeting held in January and recent discussions at RINTAG. The purpose of the programme is to increase the number of organs available for research, focusing mainly on hearts, lungs, diabetic pancreas which have rarely been available previously. In January, the programme celebrated 2 years' work and offering of over 620 organs for research of which 172 have been accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 11% of hearts have been accepted and removed for research which remains a concern (37/330). A pilot has been set up lasting 3-6 months for Cambridge and Edinburgh abdominal NORS teams to be trained to perfuse and package hearts for research studies in the absence of a CT NORs team. • 40% lungs have been accepted (68/174) • 58% of diabetic pancreases have been accepted (67/116) <p>The latest report was circulated for information.</p> | |
| 10.6 | <p><u>Retrieval Adversity Score</u> – RAG(23)21 – S Beale gave a presentation to look at the intensity of work for on call retrieval teams, (ie, hours call out/total hours on call), the additional adverse factors experienced by NORS teams resulting in an adversity score (eg back-to-back retrievals, delays in theatre, lengthy delays in travel, involvement of NRP, traumatic death of donor, paediatric donor). The adversity score is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sum of adverse events/no. of donors • Base line score of 1 • The higher the score, the more adversity experienced. <p>Details are shown in the attached presentation. This has been taken to the NORS Management Forum where it was supported. One limitation is that data received is 2 months out-of-date, but it can be used to monitor activity to see if there are significant trends. Teams are invited to share this information with their teams and to use it in contract review meetings.</p> | |
| 10.7 | <p><u>Registration for Peri-operatives and Surgeons in Novel Technologies</u> – MCOG is working on registration for eg, advanced perfusion practitioners for NRP, OCS Hearts or being an NRP surgeon who can practise independently. Development</p> | |

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| | of requirements and criteria will be discussed further at the Autumn RAG meeting. | |
| 11. | TA-NRP | |
| | A Rubino discussed the research study across Papworth and Edinburgh that seeks to exclude cerebral perfusion during TA-NRP. This will happen specifically at Edinburgh due to logistics and facilities for doing CT angiograms. 10-15 cases have been factored in for the study in total and it has been discussed at NODC and RINTAG previously and will also go to KAG. The plan is to start in about September. | |
| 12. | PACS SYSTEM FOR NHSBT - RAG(23)13 & RAG(23)14 | |
| | A Rubino discussed the proposal to have a national NHSBT PACS system to help transfer of imaging ultrasound, CT lung, CT coronary angiograms from donor centres to transplant centres. This is to help avoid using WhatsApp and poor-quality image sharing. Due to time restraints, this will be discussed further at the next RAG meeting ACTION: A Rubino and W Akhtar to circulate information to centres to prepare for discussion at the next meeting. | A Rubino / W Akhtar |
| 13. | FOCUSED ECHO FOR ORGAN DONATION – RAG(23)15 & RAG(23)16 | |
| | W Akhtar presented a donor ECHO assessment proforma circulated prior to the meeting that has been developed to guide level 1 scanners that are performing most assessments for donor hearts. This provides a step-by-step series of images that are needed as minimum criteria needed for measurement. The project aims to improve heart donor utilisation by focus active cardiography which is doing most UK donor heart assessments. ACTION: W Akhtar and A Rubino to discuss this with I Thomas | W Akhtar / A Rubino |
| 14 | TRANSPLANT PATH | |
| | H Bullock gave a presentation of Transplant Path and explained the process that is being undertaken for this to replace EOS in December/January. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 workshops took place during the 'Discovery' phase. A key concern expressed was not being able to take the device into surgery. • The 'Development' phase based on user requirements is ongoing and is due to finish in the summer. • For the 'Testing' phase users from each organ group will be required. • Transplant Path will be rolled out during the Training phase and accounts created for all users. There will be single sign in. Timings of all parts of the pathway will be recorded and the system should give live updates to users. • Go Live is planned for December/January after which EOS will be decommissioned. • Other systems will integrate with Transplant Path. In the future it is hoped donor identifiable information and digitalised HTA forms will be included. | |

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| | Centres are encouraged to contact H Bullock for further information and for demonstrations of how the Transplant Path will work. | |
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| 15. | HOMOGRAFT ISSUES | |
| | <p>A Chandrasekar spoke on behalf of A Parry, Chair of the Congenital Committee of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons who are users of heart valves homografts. The Committee is expressing concerns for a long time that there is not enough supply to meet the clinical requirements of the pulmonary homograft so the plan is to divide the pulmonary homograft into two hemigrafts and trying to use it for homograft and pulmonary patches as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One issue is that if the vessel is cut too short it is not possible to make patches from it. If it can't be used as a pulmonary artery, at least one patch can be made but this is not a good use of resources. If able to get both pulmonary artery as well as patches on the same graft, that would be beneficial. <p>The document <i>INF195 'Heart Retrieval on Behalf of NHSBT Tissue Services for Valves from a Deceased Donor'</i> provides instructions. Vessels cut too short and that are discarded are being reported to Clinical Governance. Average discard over the past 5 years is around 6 per year; however, in 2023 from January to now, discard rate is 6 which implies numbers are going up.</p> <p>ACTION: a) A Chandrasekar to send M Berman details of what is required and b) M Berman to send a reminder to all NORS teams of the importance of homografts.</p> | <p>a) A Chandrasekar b) M Berman</p> |
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| 16. | TRANSPORT OF LUNGS IN PERFADEx | |
| | <p>J Parmar highlighted an issue that unlike other countries where a preservation solution is used, lungs in the UK are transported in saline. It was agreed that the retrieval process should procure lungs as safely as possible, and this cannot be achieved using saline. Centres using 10° fridges also require preservation in a solution like Perfadex. This will be discussed at CTAG Lungs in June and will be included in SCORE discussions.</p> <p>ACTION: J Parmar and M Berman will discuss with E Billingham.</p> | J Parmar / M Berman |
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| 17. | SENTINEL – SKIN FLAP AND LUNG TRANSPLANTION | |
| | <p>H Giele, plastic reconstructive and hand surgeon at Oxford, explained the study he is doing for SENTINEL skin flaps with lung transplants funded by NIHR. This randomised trial involves all 5 units in the UK and has been through RINTAG and the other NHSBT committees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants can only be included if there is a combined lung and skin offer. The SNOD will ask if a skin flap can be included when a lung donation is offered The recipient centre will then co-ordinator with a skin flap on call person who will randomise the patient to either have a lung transplant or a lung transplant with skin flap. If randomised to lung and skin, a skin flap specialist will join the NORS team and will retrieve the skin flap from | H Giele / M Berman |

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| | <p>the forearm during the retrieval process and after the lungs have been accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will then travel with the lung to the recipient centre to be implanted by the plastic surgery team. <p>No DCD donors will be included. It was noted that space is at a premium during retrievals</p> <p>ACTION: H Giele to send round an information sheet for M Berman to send to all CT centres/NORS teams.</p> | |
| 18. | DCD HEART ALLOCATION – CTAG HEARTS UPDATE | |
| | <p>This new short-term working group to discuss DCD Heart Allocation was agreed at CTAG Hearts and will be chaired by Ian Currie. The first meeting is taking place on 4 August and further details will follow.</p> | |
| 19. | BLUE LIGHT MONITORING | |
| | <p>M Roberts stated that data is still being collected on blue light usage. Data has also been collected on additional data around how many times a blue light has been activated and for how long.</p> <p>ACTION: M Roberts to present full 12 months data at next RAG meeting.</p> | |
| 20. | ANY OTHER BUSINESS | |
| 20.1 | <p><u>Key Points from Today's Meeting for Cascade to Centres –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All RAG attendees are asked to circulate these Minutes to team members in their centres. <u>Homograft requirements</u> - are included in these Minutes and should be circulated to all team members <u>The SENTINEL skinflap protocol</u> will be sent to RAG members who are asked to cascade this to their teams. <u>HTK Storage</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HTK must be kept refrigerated while in storage. Additional fridges were supplied to the NORS teams to enable this to happen. If fridge capacity is an issue for any of the teams, it is suggested teams contact Pharmapal. In summary: Manufacturer's instructions are to keep HTK refrigerated while in storage, and to transport on ice. Full storage instructions are circulated with these Minutes. <u>UW/HTK preference</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Emma Billingham contacted all retrieval teams earlier this year to find out whether they would prefer to use UW or HTK. She received responses from Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Kings, Leeds, Newcastle and Oxford all stating they would prefer to use UW (other centres have not yet responded). We do not yet have a contract in place with an alternative supplier of UW but intend to go out to tender shortly for this. In summary: NORS teams' preference is for UW. A tender process will be undertaken to secure contracts for all organ perfusion fluid including UW. | |
| 20.2 | <p><u>Date of Next Meeting – Provisionally set for Thursday 30 November – Face to Face – venue TBA</u></p> | |
| 21 | CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY | |

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| 21.1 | <u>QUOD Data and Governance Update – RAG(23)17</u> | |
| 22.2 | <u>Super Urgent Liver Project – RAG(23)18</u> | |
| 21.3 | <u>SaBTO Recommendations for YYV8 Testing – RAG(23)19</u> | |