

**CTAG-H Advisory Group  
OTDT Patient Safety Team Report September 2025**

**1. Status – Confidential**

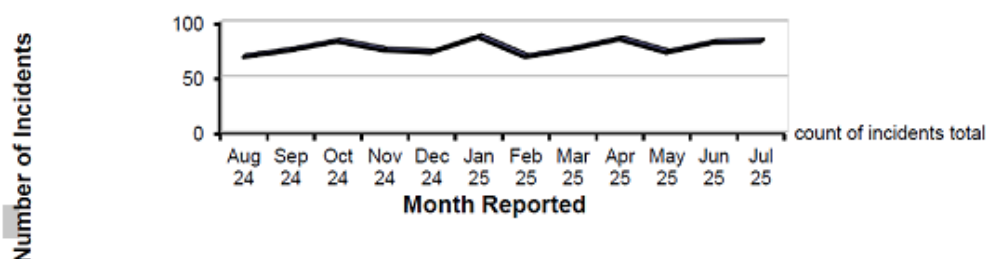
**2. Action Requested**

CTAG-H are requested to note the findings in this report.

**3. Data**

Incidents reported and requiring investigation

Month Reported	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Number of incidents	69	75	83	75	73	87	69	76	85	73	82	83



**4. Learning from reports**

Summary of the findings and learning from key clinical incident reports submitted to ODT:

**Date reported: 07.05.2025**  
Reference: INC 8955 and 9080

What was reported
Persistent hyperkalaemia in 2 DCD hearts on OCS in retrieval with A-NRP. Both donors were young males with no comorbidities. The hyperkalaemia could not be resolved, and the hearts were not transplanted.
Investigation findings
Each case was debriefed; the NORS team and accepting centre were invited to participate. The retrieval timings and stages were discussed. The potential

cause of the high potassium level was explored; it was agreed that this was most likely due to the cardioplegia. The group considered the benefit of attaching a CVVH filter to the OCS circuit to reduce the potassium level to within acceptable range. A CVVH filter was not used on the OCS machine at either retrieval.

In one case the heart went into VT and was cardioverted several times using the OCS defibrillator. The benefits of using defibrillator spoons to provide a bigger surface area and more accurate results were agreed.

**Learning**

Amendments have been made to the national DCD heart and ANRP retrieval documents to provide specific guidance in managing high potassium.

**5.Trends noted**

A decline in direct communication between retrieval and transplanting surgeons during donor retrievals was highlighted in the Patient Safety report March 2025. We continue to receive reports where direct surgeon to surgeon discussion would have been beneficial.

OTDT AMD for Clinical Governance and the National Surgical Lead encourage direct communication to support and enhance information available on Transplant path.

**Author**

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