

**NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT  
ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION DIRECTORATE**

**KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP**

**UNMATCHED NON-DIRECTED ALTRUISTIC DONORS (NDADs) MATCHED TO  
PAEDIATRIC RECIPIENTS**

**LAY SUMMARY**

Non-directed altruistic donors (living kidney donors who come forward and wish to donate a kidney to anyone, without specifying who they give their kidney to) are usually included in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme first, in order start a chain of 2 or 3 transplants. If the non-directed altruistic donor does not match with a recipient in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS), they are then matched to recipients waiting on the UK kidney transplant list. Since 2021, those kidneys have been offered to children waiting for a kidney transplant before being offered to the highest ranked patient on the UK waiting list. The decision was taken to address the increase in children who were on dialysis. The process of offering the kidneys to children first requires a manual step and is not automated within the algorithm. KAG agreed to review this decision each year. This paper gives an update on the activity of the non-directed altruistic donors who are unmatched in the UKLKSS and members are asked to vote on whether the offering of these donors preferentially to paediatric recipients is to continue.

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1 In 2021 it was agreed by KAG that unmatched non-directed altruistic donors (NDADs) in the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS) would be offered preferentially to paediatric recipients on the deceased donor waiting list. This measure was implemented to help address the increase in the number of children who were on dialysis and requires a manual step within the sequence of offering. This measure is reviewed annually by KAG.

**DATA**

- 2 Table 1 below summaries the number of unmatched NDADs, the number of matches to paediatric recipients and any offers made to those paediatric recipients in the most recent year of the UKLKSS. In the last 4 matching runs, there have been 6 unmatched NDADs, of which none matched to a paediatric recipient on the list. In the last 2 matching runs, all NDADs were matched within the matching run and therefore none were offered to the list after the matching run.

**Table 1:** Offers made from unmatched NDADs in the UKLKSS to paediatric recipients

| <b>Matching run</b> | <b>No. of unmatched NDADs</b> | <b>No. of matches to paediatric recipient</b> | <b>No. of offers accepted</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| July 2025           | 3                             | 0   | -                             |
| October 2025        | 3                             | 0   | -                             |
| January 2026        | 0                             | -   | -                             |
| April 2026          | 0                             | -   | -                             |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>6</b>                      | <b>0</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                      |

- 3 Since the change was introduced in July 2021, there has been one offer made to a paediatric recipient on the list from an unmatched NDAD in the UKLKSS. This offer was accepted and transplanted.

## **ACTION**

- 4 Members are asked to vote on whether to continue to offer unmatched NDADs via the UKLKSS preferentially to paediatric recipients for a further year, or revert back to offering these kidneys to the highest ranked recipient on the national kidney transplant list.

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