

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP

SUMMARY FROM STATISTICS AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper provides an update from Statistics and Clinical Research and summarises recent presentations, publications, and current and future work in the area of cardiothoracic transplantation.

UPDATE FROM STATISTICS AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

2. New and updated reports, all Advisory Group papers and conference presentations continue to be posted on the ODT Clinical Site www.odt.nhs.uk. Annual reports for 2025/2026 are in development and will be published between June and September.
3. Please note our current arrangements for staff responsibilities in support of organs and tissues.

Area	Lead	Contact
Head of Organ Donation and Transplantation Studies	Lisa Mumford	lisa.mumford@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Organ donation	Susanna Madden	susanna.madden@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Organ retrieval	Rachel Hogg	rachel.hogg@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Ocular tissue	Cathy Hopkinson	cathy.hopkinson@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Organ utilisation	Jenny Mehew	jennifer.mehew@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Enquiries		statistical.enquiries@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Deceased kidney transplantation	Chloe Brown	chloe.brown@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Living kidney transplantation	Matthew Robb	matthew.robb@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Pancreas transplantation	Shaminie Shanmugaranjan	shaminie.shanmugaranjan@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Liver, multi-visceral and composite tissue transplantation	Rhiannon Taylor	rhiannon.taylor@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Cardiothoracic transplantation	Sally Rushton	sally.rushton@nhsbt.nhs.uk

PRESENTATIONS

4. In January 2026, a presentation was given at the NHSBT Clinical and R&D Conference on a decade of DCD heart transplants.

5. A summary of recent cardiothoracic transplant activity, donation trends, and waiting times and outcomes was presented at the annual British Transplantation Society Congress in March 2026.
6. Slides for both presentations can be found under Cardiothoracic online here: <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/slides-and-presentations/>.

PUBLICATIONS

7. Two recent studies have been accepted for publication:
 - Heart-lung Transplantation in the United Kingdom: Trends and Outcomes over four decades <https://doi.org/10.1002/ehf2.15411>
 - The United Kingdom National Programme of DCD Heart Transplantation: A Focus on Retrieval Timings and Techniques (awaiting publication)

APPLICATIONS FOR DATA

8. There have been two recent applications for national registry data and there is one previous application on hold:

Centre	Applicant	Application date	Study title	Status
Newcastle	Nicholas Chilvers	10/02/2024	The impact of time from withdrawal of treatment to asystole and ischaemic times on recipient outcomes after DCD heart and lung transplantation	On hold
Great Ormond Street Hospital / UCL	Constance Burns	22/01/2026	Predicting Outcomes for Paediatric Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: A Machine Learning Approach	Complete
Papworth / University of Cambridge	Lois Kim	26/03/2026	Health economics modelling study transport of DBD hearts, adult and pediatrics using HOPE	In progress

RECENT AND FUTURE WORK

9. Data analysis is being performed to inform a future points-based heart allocation scheme that is being developed by the CTAG-Heart Allocation Working Group, chaired by Dr Sern Lim. This has involved survival analysis for different characteristics and subgroups of patients and is on-going.
10. Simulations have been performed to estimate the likely impact of a change to the current heart offering sequence to increase prioritisation for paediatric candidates. This work has been done within the Paediatric Heart Allocation Working Group and is being shared with the wider CTAG-Heart group with the aim of coming to a decision soon regarding interim changes to the heart offering policy.

11. Work is progressing in collaboration with Newcastle University regarding their organ allocation simulator in the context of lung allocation. There are some final changes needed to the statistical models that are used in these simulations and further work required to refine the proposals that have been developed by the CTAG-Lung Allocation Working Group.
12. We continue to support the NHS England Heart and Lung Transformation Programme with organ utilisation analyses and provision of other data.
13. The Statistics Team have been supporting the Assessment and Recovery Centres programme at various levels, including discussion around data monitoring and assessing the impact of the Lung-ARC pilot. As part of this a statistical model has been developed to predict the probability of lung utilisation using available donor data.
14. Data were transferred to the International Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (IMACS) in January 2026 following their re-opening in 2023. UK heart and lung transplant data will be transferred to the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation Registry in late Summer.

Sally Rushton
Statistics and Clinical Research

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