

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

CARDIOTHORACIC ADVISORY GROUP – LUNG

ADJUDICATION PANEL REFERRALS 1 JANUARY 2023 – 31 DECEMBER 2025

LAY SUMMARY

Lungs are offered to patients through an offering sequence that was updated in 2017. Patients are placed on one of three lists: non-urgent, urgent, or super-urgent depending on how serious their condition is and therefore what criteria they meet. These lists determine how quickly a patient is offered a transplant. Patients can move between lists if their condition changes and they meet the criteria for a different category. For some categories, additional clinical consideration is needed before a patient can be listed on the urgent or super-urgent lists. In these cases, a clinician from each lung transplant centre in the UK reviews the case and provides their judgement on whether the patient should be placed on a high priority list. This group of clinicians forms the adjudication panel; the panel must approve the case before the patient can be listed. This report looks at how many patients were reviewed by the adjudication panel and how many are approved in a recent 3 year period.

INTRODUCTION

1. Patients are referred to the CTAG Lung Adjudication Panel where they do not meet the standard listing criteria for urgent or super-urgent lung transplant listing. Note that the standard listing criteria for urgent lung transplant were changed on 9 December 2024.
2. The Adjudication Panel is made up of the CTAG Chair plus one representative from each of the 5 adult 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, rather than the full Adjudication Panel, any cases must be referred to the CTAG Chair and a representative from the other paediatric centre for approval.
4. Since 18 May 2017 (the date of inception of the urgent and super-urgent lung allocation schemes), Statistics and Clinical Research have kept records of all Lung Adjudication Panel referrals and whether the request was approved or rejected.
5. This paper reports on Lung Adjudication Panel referrals between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025. It also reports on urgent and super-urgent heart-lung adjudication panel referrals, which must always be referred to the Lung Adjudication Panel due to the priority these patients are given above urgent lung only patients (they may also be referred to the Heart Adjudication Panel, if standard urgent heart listing criteria are not met). Although some historic patients were registered for super-urgent heart-lung transplantation, this is currently only for very exceptional cases.

RESULTS

6. Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025 there were 67 adult referrals and 10 paediatric referrals to the Lung Adjudication Panel.
7. Of the adult lung referrals, 89.6% were approved, and all paediatric lung referrals were approved as shown in **Table 1** and **Table 2** respectively. The number of urgent and super-urgent registrations, both via the panel and those meeting standard listing criteria, are provided for reference in the tables.
8. Newcastle had the highest number of adult adjudication panel referrals and also the highest number of urgent and super-urgent adult registrations. All paediatric adjudication panel referrals, and all but one urgent/super-urgent registrations, during the period analysed were made by Great Ormond Street Hospital.
9. In the time period, 12 referrals were made for urgent or super-urgent heart-lung listing and 11 (91.7%) were approved as shown in **Table 3**. There were no urgent or super-urgent heart-lung registrations without prior approval, as indicated by the far-right column.
10. Please note that when referring to the tables below, a patient whose referral was approved may still not be registered due to reasons such as deteriorated health.

ACTION

11. This report is provided for information and to monitor the number of Adjudication Panel referrals and the approval rates. Members are welcome to make any comments.

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Table 1 **Urgent/super-urgent adult lung adjudication panel referrals and all Urgent/super-urgent adult registrations by centre, 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2025**

Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent/super-urgent registrations
		N	%	
Birmingham	10	10	100.0	43
Harefield	17 ¹	14	82.4	37
Manchester	10	9	90.0	32
Newcastle	23	21	91.3	73
Papworth	7	6 ²	85.7	35
Total	67³	60	89.6	220

¹ Includes 1 patient with 2 referrals and approvals.

² Includes 1 patient who was transplanted before the panel reached a decision; therefore, the referral did not continue and no approval was required.

³ Includes 3 super-urgent referrals.

Table 2 Urgent/super-urgent paediatric lung adjudication panel referrals and all Urgent/super-urgent paediatric lung registrations by centre, 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2025

Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent/super-urgent registrations
		N	%	
Great Ormond Street	10	10 ¹	100.0	9
Newcastle	0	0	-	1
Total	10²	10	100.0	10

¹ Includes 1 patient who was approved for super-urgent list but was never listed.

² Includes 2 super-urgent referrals.

Table 3 Urgent/super-urgent heart-lung adjudication panel referrals and all urgent/super-urgent heart-lung registrations by centre, 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2025

Centre	Number of referrals	Number approved		All urgent/super-urgent HL registrations
		N	%	
Birmingham	2	2	100.0	2
Great Ormond Street	2	2	100.0	2
Harefield	1	1	100.0	1
Newcastle	6 ¹	5	83.3	5
Papworth	1	1	100.0	1
Total	12	11	91.7	11

¹ Includes 1 patients with two appeals, one rejected and one accepted.