

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP

ACCESS TO TRANSPLANT FOR PAEDIATRIC LIVER AND KIDNEY PATIENTS

BACKGROUND

1. Since the National Liver Offering Scheme was introduced on 20 March 2018, one kidney from DBD donors is reserved for **adult** patients only if one of the top three ranking recipients on the elective liver transplant list require a kidney. The kidney will become available for kidney patients after 60 minutes, or once it has been declined for the liver/kidney patient. The offer is provisional and subject to there not being high priority patients on the National Kidney Waiting List (Tiers A-C under previous scheme and Tier A in the new offering scheme).
2. Following a review, it was agreed at the May 2021 Liver Advisory Group that, subject to there not being high priority patients on the National Kidney Waiting List, a kidney from DCD donor should be reserved until the zonal and linked centres had declined the kidney. This change was implemented on 1 November 2021.
3. As detailed in Appendix A of the Liver Allocation Policy
 - a. If a centre requests a kidney for a combined liver kidney recipient outside the agreement above, the centre may request that the kidney is accepted with the liver at any point during offering process, but the availability of the kidney will depend on whether it had been allocated for kidney or simultaneous pancreas and kidney recipients.
 - b. If a liver centre wishes to request that a renal centre relinquish a kidney offer, then this can be agreed only if the renal centre agrees that this is clinically appropriate.
4. Discussion was held in 2025 regarding the access to kidneys for **paediatric** liver and kidney patients and it was agreed that the current agreement would continue. It was subsequently rediscussed at the Liver Centre Directors meeting and LAG Paediatric Subgroup in May 2026 and the proposal is that, subject to no Tier A kidney patients, a kidney would be reserved until the paediatric transplant centres had declined the kidney.

ACTIVITY

5. One thousand, one hundred and thirty six patients aged less than 17 years old at registration were registered on the UK liver transplant list between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2026. Thirty-two (3%) of the 1136 were registered on the kidney list either before, during or after the liver registration. Twenty four of the 32 patients were registered on the Simultaneous liver and kidney (SLK) list and
 - i. 11 received SLK transplants
 1. 7 prior to implementation of NLOS in March 2018 and 4 post
 - ii. Two received kidney only (KO) transplants
 - iii. Two received a liver only (LO) transplant
 - iv. Two died on the list
 - v. Five are currently suspended at 9am on 27th April 2026
 - vi. Two are currently active

6. The median waiting time to transplant for the 11 SLK recipients (seven prior to NLOS and four post-NLOS) was 133 days and ranged from 1 to 792 days. The two paediatric patients currently active for a liver and kidney transplant had been waiting 118 and 930 days as at 27th April 2026.
7. An additional four paediatric patients (aged less than 17 years) registered prior to 1 April 2015 received a simultaneous liver and kidney transplant in the UK between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2026. Of the 15 SLK recipients, twelve were transplanted at Birmingham while three were transplanted at King's College.

ACTION REQUIRED

8. Members are asked whether a kidney could be reserved for paediatric liver and kidney patients.

Rhiannon Taylor and Maria Jacobs
Statistics and Clinical Research

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