

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP CORE GROUP

NEW SERVICE EVALUATIONS

LAY SUMMARY

Four new service evaluations were launched in 2022 and 2023 to examine the impact of liver transplantation on patients with certain cancer indications or Hepatopulmonary Syndrome. A fifth is in the process of being launched. This paper summarises registration and transplant activity of the new service evaluations.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper monitors the service evaluations for patients with either neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) or unresectable Colorectal liver Metastases (CRC Mets) which were introduced in August 2022. Changes were also introduced in August 2022 for adult patients with severe or very severe Hepatopulmonary Syndrome (HPS) and this is also monitored in this paper. Details regarding the service evaluations are in the Liver Selection Policy (<https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/29064/pol195-200223.pdf>) and SOP5907 (Registration process for liver indications requiring additional waiting time - <https://nhsbtdbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/30865/sop5907.pdf>).
- 2 It has been agreed that patients with NET should receive a named patient offer within six months of listing while patients with CRC Mets or CCA should receive a named patient offer within three months of listing.
- 3 This paper also monitors the service evaluation for patients with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (iCCA) which opened on Monday 20 February 2023.
- 4 The service evaluation for patients with hilar cholangiocarcinoma (hilar CCA) has not opened yet and patients meeting the criteria are currently reviewed by the National Appeals Panel.

RESULTS

Table 1 Summary of patients registered through the service evaluations as at 5 May 2026

Service evaluation	Number referred	Number accepted	Number registered	Number transplanted	Number retransplanted
Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma	-	-	4	3	0
Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma	-	-	3	2	0
Neuroendocrine tumours	-	-	17	12	0
Colorectal Metastases	-	-	13	9	2
Hepatopulmonary Syndrome	-	-	44	35	1

NEW CANCER SERVICE EVALUATIONS

- 5 There have been 3 patients with intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) registered and 2 of these patients received a DCD NRP transplants within 92 days. The other is currently active on the waiting list.
- 6 There were 4 patients registered with hilar CCA following appeals. Of these patients, 2 received DCD liver transplants within 59 days and one received a DBD liver transplant after 78 days. One patient was removed due to evidence of extrahepatic disease at laparotomy prior to a potential transplant.
- 7 Of the 17 patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NET), 12 received a DBD liver transplant and all were named patient offers. Of the 12 transplants, 7 were within six months of registration. Additionally, 4 NET patients are currently active and one suspended.
- 8 There were 13 patients who were registered with Colorectal Metastases (CRC Mets) and 9 of these received a transplant, of which 4 received a DBD liver transplant (one within 3 months). The other 5 patients received DCD transplants. Of the 9 transplanted, 2 patients have received a super-urgent retransplant due to hepatic artery thrombosis and early graft dysfunction. One patient registered with CRC Mets was removed from the waiting list within 3 months of registration, and 3 are currently active on the waiting list.

PATIENTS WITH HEPATOPULMONARY SYNDROME

- 9 Of the 44 patients with HPS on the UK transplant list since 1 August 2022, 34 received a deceased donor liver transplant (22 DBD, 12 DCD) and one patient received a living donor liver transplant. Additionally, one patient was retransplanted. Of the 35 transplants, 6 were performed within 90 days of registration.