

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

LIVER ADVISORY GROUP

FOLLOW-UP FORM RETURN RATES REPORTED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT ON LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

LAY SUMMARY

After a liver transplant, follow-up forms are used to collect information about patients' health. These data are essential for monitoring transplant outcomes and producing national reports. This paper reports adult and paediatric liver transplant follow-up form return rates in 2025 by centre and follow-up period. In 2025, 84% of adult and 77% of paediatric one-year follow-up forms were returned, but fewer long-term follow-up forms were received and return rates varied between centres.

BACKGROUND

- 1 NHSBT use the information returned on the post-transplant follow-up forms to estimate post-transplant survival for specific demographics (e.g. 5 year risk-adjusted patient survival estimates by transplant centre). This paper provides an examination of the form return rates for forms issued from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 for both adult and paediatric deceased donor liver only transplants performed in the UK.

METHODS

- 2 Data on transplant record forms for all deceased donor liver only transplants performed in the UK between 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 were extracted from the UK Transplant Registry on 29 April 2026 along with all follow-up forms issued to transplant centres for deceased donor liver only transplants during the same time period.

RESULTS

- 3 **Table 1** shows the form return rates for forms issued from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 by age group and transplant centre. For adult transplants, the overall form return rate for the one-year follow-up form was 84% and ranged between 31% and 100%. The overall form return rate for the lifetime follow-up forms (2 years or over) was 67% and ranged between 24% and 91%.
- 4 For paediatric transplants, the overall form return rate for the one-year form was 77% and ranged between 25% and 94% for the three paediatric centres. The overall form return rate for the lifetime follow-up forms was 74% and ranged between 9% and 89% for the three paediatric centres.

ACTION

- 5 Centres are asked to ensure follow-up is up to date to enable us to accurately monitor liver transplantation.

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Table 1 Form return rates for first deceased donor liver only transplants, issued between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, as at 29 April 2026								
Centre	Transplant record		3 month follow-up		1 year follow-up		Lifetime follow-up	
	N	Returned	N	Returned	N	Returned	N	Returned
1. Adult								
Newcastle	27	100	26	100	35	69	431	64
Leeds	107	100	107	100	94	100	1217	24
Cambridge	100	100	106	97	98	31	1054	24
Royal Free	105	100	111	100	117	85	1131	87
King's College	191	100	198	100	135	90	2001	89
Birmingham	145	100	141	100	156	100	2071	91
Edinburgh	62	100	65	100	51	100	900	48
Total	737	100	754	100	686	84	8805	67
2. Paediatric								
Leeds	12	100	11	100	12	25	216	9
King's College	28	100	33	100	34	94	613	89
Birmingham	17	100	15	100	15	80	478	85
Newcastle	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	100
Cambridge	0	-	0	-	0	-	51	61
Royal Free	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	0
Edinburgh	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	100
Total	57	100	59	100	61	77	1363	74