

Pancreas Activity

Key messages

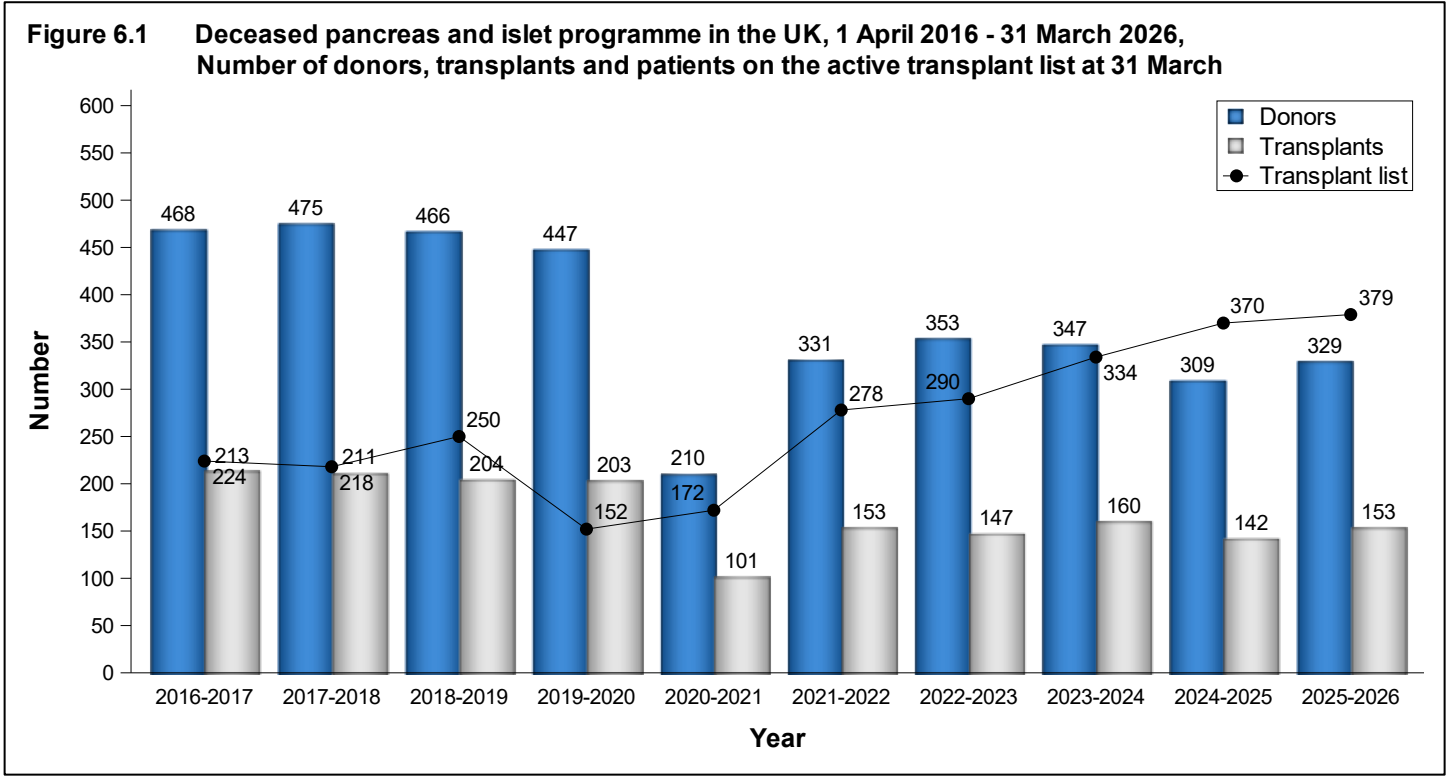
- The number of patients waiting on the pancreas transplant list increased by 2% during the year, to 379 at 31 March 2026
- The number of pancreas donors after brain death fell by 11% to 183, while transplants from donors after brain death decreased by 7% to 89
- The number of pancreas donors after circulatory death increased by 42% to 146, while transplants from donors after circulatory death increased by 39% to 64
- 29 islet transplants were made possible by the pancreas islet transplant programme

6.1 Overview

The number of patients registered on the active transplant list for a pancreas, simultaneous pancreas/kidney (SPK), simultaneous islet/kidney (SIK), or islet transplant has increased over the last ten years from 224 patients at 31 March 2017 to 379 patients at 31 March 2026. The number of pancreas donors decreased from 468 to 329 in the last ten years and the number of transplants decreased from 213 to 153 in the same period. A summary of activity for deceased donor pancreas transplants and the transplant list for 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2026 is shown in **Figure 6.1**.

The National Pancreas Offering Scheme has a top tier of patients who are either categorised as very difficult to HLA match to a donor, or have been waiting for more than 3 years for a pancreas or islet transplant. All other patients appear in subsequent tiers and are prioritised according to a point system based on a range of clinical factors. A score is calculated for every potentially suitable patient, and the pancreas is offered preferentially to the patient with the most points after those in the top tier. Pancreases from donors after brain death and donors after circulatory death are offered through this scheme, which was introduced in 2019. Patients listed for a vascularised pancreas or islet transplant are prioritised through one combined national transplant list.

Throughout this chapter, intestinal transplants involving a pancreas are not included in the pancreas transplant activity reported. Any pancreases retrieved and used for such transplants are however included in the pancreas donor activity. In 2025-2026 there were 13 intestinal transplants including a pancreas. Intestinal transplant activity is reported in Chapter 9.



6.2 Transplant list

Table 6.1 shows the number of patients on the active transplant lists at 31 March 2026 by centre. The number of patients registered on the pancreas transplant list increased by 2% in the last year: on 31 March 2026, 379 patients were registered as active, compared with 370 at the end of March 2025.

Of the 379 patients on the active transplant list at 31 March 2026, 329 (87%) required a SPK transplant (316 at 31 March 2025), 5 (1%) patients required a pancreas only transplant (7 at 31 March 2025) and 45 (12%) were registered for a pancreas islet transplant (including 26 for a SIK transplant).

The outcome of patients registered on the UK whole pancreas transplant list at 1 April 2025, or subsequently registered during the financial year, is shown in **Table 6.2**. Eight patients joined the pancreas transplant list while 195 joined the list for a kidney and pancreas.

Patients listed for a routine islet transplant are generally waiting for their first islet graft. The majority of islet transplant recipients are likely to require more than one graft to complete their treatment. To optimise transplant outcome the follow-up graft should be performed within six to twelve months of the first. Patients requiring follow-up grafts are priority listed.

Table 6.1 Patients on the pancreas transplant lists at 31 March 2026 (2025) in the UK, by centre												
Centre	Kidney/ pancreas		Kidney/islet		Active transplant lists						TOTAL	
					Pancreas alone		Islet					
							Routine		Priority			
Cambridge	30	(26)	0	(0)	1	(1)	0	(0)	0	(0)	31	(27)
Cardiff	7	(16)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	7	(16)
Edinburgh	40	(37)	6	(8)	0	(0)	1	(4)	3	(1)	50	(50)
Guy's	45	(35)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	45	(35)
ICHNT	10	(8)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	10	(8)
King's College	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)
Manchester	111	(111)	12	(14)	3	(4)	3	(4)	2	(2)	131	(135)
Newcastle	19	(17)	1	(0)	0	(0)	3	(4)	1	(1)	24	(22)
Oxford	67	(66)	7	(6)	1	(2)	4	(3)	1	(0)	80	(77)
TOTAL	329	(316)	26	(28)	5	(7)	12	(15)	7	(4)	379	(370)
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Table 6.2 Whole pancreas transplant list and new registrations in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026						
Outcome of patient at 31 March 2026	Active and suspended patients at 1 April 2025		New registrations in 2025-2026 ¹		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Pancreas transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	47	80	1	13	48	72
Transplanted	3	5	6	75	9	13
Removed	7	12	1	13	8	12
Died	2	3	0	0	2	3
TOTAL	59		8		67	
Kidney/pancreas transplant list						
Remained active/suspended	355	69	175	90	530	74
Transplanted	105	20	18	9	123	17
Removed ²	33	6	2	1	35	5
Died	24	5	0	0	24	3
TOTAL	517		195		712	

¹ Includes re-registrations for second or subsequent patients

² Includes 11 patients removed from kidney/pancreas list and made active on kidney/islet list

The active pancreas transplant list rates by country/NHS region of patient's residence are shown in **Table 6.3**. At 31 March 2026, the overall transplant list rate was 5.5 pmp and across NHS regions ranged from 3.2 to 8.0 pmp.

Table 6.3 Active pancreas, kidney/pancreas, and islet transplant list at 31 March, by Country/ NHS region of patient residence				
Country/ NHS region of residence	Pancreas/Islet transplant list (pmp)			
	2026		2025	
North East and Yorkshire	65	(7.7)	57	(6.7)
North West	62	(8.0)	69	(8.9)
Midlands	46	(4.1)	48	(4.3)
East of England	29	(4.4)	24	(3.6)
London	42	(4.6)	40	(4.4)
South East	31	(3.2)	28	(2.9)
South West	31	(5.2)	22	(3.7)
England	306	(5.2)	288	(4.9)
Isle of Man	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Wales	23	(7.1)	31	(9.6)
Scotland	44	(7.9)	43	(7.7)
Northern Ireland	6	(3.1)	7	(3.6)
TOTAL¹	379	(5.5)	370	(5.3)

¹Includes patients in 2026 (2025) residing in: Unspecified UK 0 (1)

An indication of longer-term outcomes for patients listed for a pancreas or kidney/pancreas transplant is shown in **Figure 6.2**. This shows the proportion of patients transplanted or still waiting six months, one year, two years, and three years after joining the list. It also shows the proportion removed from the transplant list (typically because they become too unwell for transplant) and those dying while on the transplant list. 18% of patients are transplanted within one year, while three years after listing 44% of patients have received a transplant.

The median (average) waiting time for a pancreas alone or SPK transplant is 598 days and is shown by blood group in **Table 6.4** and ethnicity in **Table 6.5**. These tables include the median (average) waiting time for an islet alone or SIK transplant which is 441 days. Patients are categorised by their initial registration on the transplant waiting list, even if they subsequently move between pancreas and islet lists. Note that these waiting times are not adjusted for other relevant factors which may be influential and which may differ across blood or ethnic groups. Equivalent breakdowns are not presented for islet transplants as the numbers are too small to provide reliable estimates.

Figure 6.2 Post-registration outcome for 209 new pancreas only and kidney/pancreas registrations made in the UK, 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

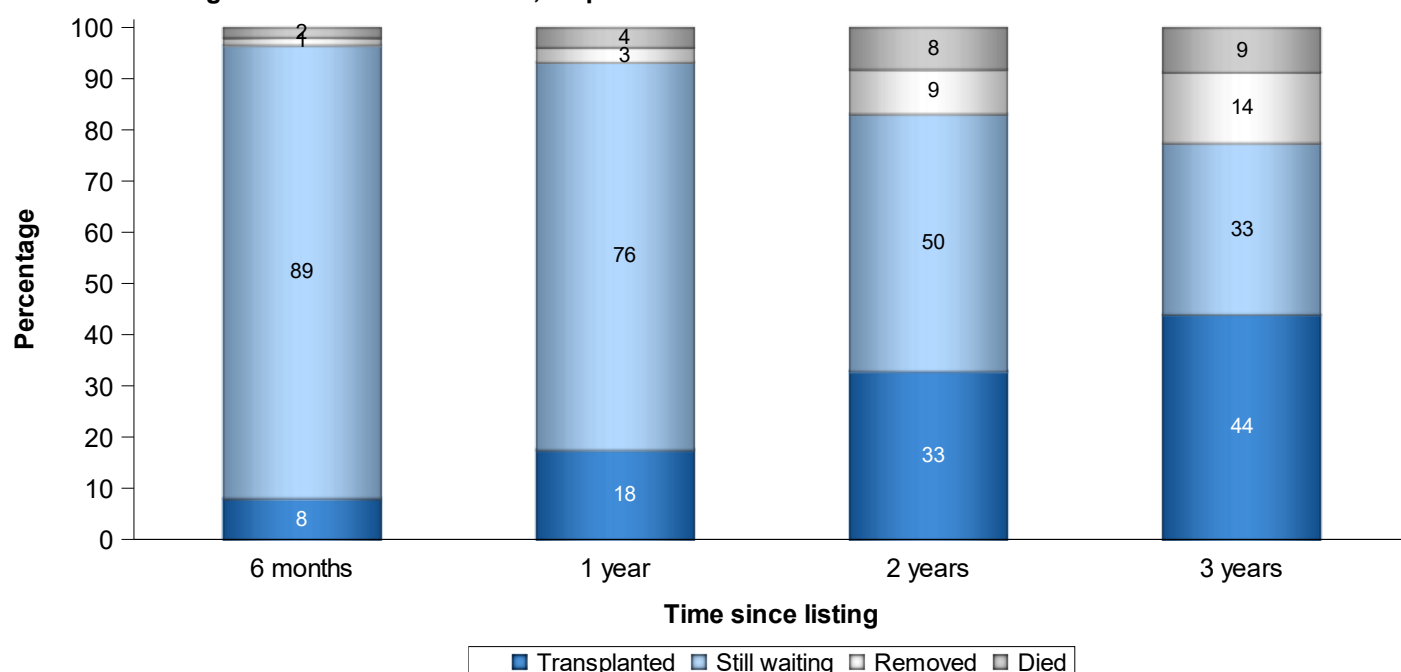


Table 6.4 Median waiting time to pancreas only, kidney/pancreas, islet only and kidney/islet transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2024

Blood group	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Pancreas/SPK			
O	382	1028	959 - 1097
A	323	446	403 - 489
B	103	500	419 - 581
AB	31	176	124 - 228
TOTAL	839	598	551 - 645
Islet/SIK	108	441	188 - 694

Table 6.5 Median waiting time to pancreas only, kidney/pancreas, islet only and kidney/islet transplant in the UK, for patients registered 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2024

Ethnicity	Number of patients registered	Waiting time (days)	
		Median	95% Confidence interval
Pancreas/SPK			
White	711	625	582 - 668
Asian	46	464	384 - 544
Black	45	549	423 - 675
Other	15	469	182 - 756
TOTAL¹	839	598	551 - 645
Islet/SIK	108	441	188 - 694

¹ Includes 22 recipients with unknown ethnicity

6.3 Donor and organ supply

Of the 636 organ donors after brain death in the UK in 2025-2026, 183 (29%) donated a pancreas. Of the 792 organ donors after circulatory death in the UK, 146 (18%) donated a pancreas. **Table 6.6** shows this activity by country/NHS region of the donor's residence. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations.

The overall rate for pancreas donors after brain death is 2.6 pmp, with rates ranging from 2.0 to 3.6 pmp across NHS regions and for donors after circulatory death is 2.1 pmp, with rates ranging from 0.9 to 2.7 pmp across NHS regions.

Table 6.6 Pancreas donation rates for deceased donors in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by Country/ NHS region						
Country/ NHS region of residence	Pancreas donors (pmp)					
	DBD		DCD		TOTAL	
North East and Yorkshire	21	(2.5)	21	(2.5)	42	(5.0)
North West	16	(2.1)	14	(1.8)	30	(3.9)
Midlands	26	(2.3)	21	(1.9)	47	(4.2)
East of England	24	(3.6)	17	(2.6)	41	(6.2)
London	18	(2.0)	8	(0.9)	26	(2.9)
South East	19	(2.0)	17	(1.8)	36	(3.7)
South West	19	(3.2)	16	(2.7)	35	(5.9)
England	143	(2.4)	114	(1.9)	257	(4.4)
Isle of Man	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	1	(5.9)	0	(0.0)	1	(5.9)
Wales	11	(3.4)	8	(2.5)	19	(5.9)
Scotland	9	(1.6)	11	(2.0)	20	(3.6)
Northern Ireland	7	(3.6)	5	(2.6)	12	(6.1)
TOTAL¹	183	(2.6)	146	(2.1)	329	(4.7)

¹ Includes 20 donors with unknown UK postcode (12 DBD and 8 DCD)

6.4 Transplants

The number of pancreas and islet transplants by recipient country/NHS region of residence is shown in **Table 6.7**. No adjustments have been made for potential demographic differences in populations. For donors after brain death, the transplant rate ranged from 0.7 to 1.6 pmp across NHS regions and overall was 1.3 pmp. For donors after circulatory death, the overall rate was 0.9 pmp and ranged from 0.5 to 1.2 pmp across NHS regions.

Table 6.7 Pancreas and islet transplant rates per million population (pmp), in the UK, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, by country and English NHS region						
Country/ NHS region of residence	DBD		DCD		TOTAL	
	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)	N	(pmp)
North East and Yorkshire	13	(1.5)	4	(0.5)	17	(2.0)
North West	8	(1.0)	9	(1.2)	17	(2.2)
Midlands	18	(1.6)	12	(1.1)	30	(2.7)
East of England	9	(1.4)	8	(1.2)	17	(2.6)
London	6	(0.7)	9	(1.0)	15	(1.6)
South East	5	(0.5)	5	(0.5)	10	(1.0)
South West	6	(1.0)	4	(0.7)	10	(1.7)
England	65	(1.1)	51	(0.9)	116	(2.0)
Isle of Man	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Channel Islands	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)	0	(0.0)
Wales	4	(1.2)	6	(1.9)	10	(3.1)
Scotland	19	(3.4)	7	(1.3)	26	(4.6)
Northern Ireland	1	(0.5)	0	(0.0)	1	(0.5)
TOTAL	89	(1.3)	64	(0.9)	153	(2.2)

There were 153 deceased donor pancreas and islet transplants in 2025-2026, more than the 142 transplants performed in 2024-2025. Of these 153, 115 (75%) were SPK transplants, 9 (6%) were pancreas only transplants (pancreas alone (PTA) or pancreas after kidney (PAK)) and 29 (19%) were islet transplants (including 8 SIK). The number of transplants performed at each centre is shown in **Table 6.8** by transplant type and **Table 6.9** by transplant and donor type. Note that King's College only perform islet transplants. Cambridge, Guy's, ICHNT and Cardiff only perform pancreas transplants.

The length of time that elapses between a pancreas being removed from the donor to its transplantation into the recipient is called the total preservation time. Generally, the shorter this time, the more likely the pancreas is to work immediately and the better the long-term outcome. In 2025-2026, the median time for a DBD donor whole pancreas transplant was 10.8 hours (Inter-Quartile (IQ) range 9.6 – 11.6) and for a DCD donor transplant was 10.7 hours (IQ range 9.3 – 12.3) and overall was 10.7 hours (IQ range 9.5 – 11.7).

At 31 March 2026, there were approximately 2,300 recipients with a functioning pancreas transplant (including multi-organ transplants) being followed-up, as reported to the UK Transplant Registry.

Table 6.8 Pancreas and islet transplants, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 (2024-2025) by centre											
Centre	SPK		SIK		Transplant type				Islet		
					PTA		PAK		Routine		Priority
Cambridge	18	(21)	0	(0)	0	(0)	4	(0)	0	(0)	0 (0)
Cardiff	7	(7)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0 (0)
Edinburgh	13	(10)	4	(3)	0	(0)	0	(0)	3	(4)	7 (5)
Guy's	11	(12)	0	(0)	1	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0 (0)
ICHNT	5	(6)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(1)	0	(0)	0 (0)
Manchester	28	(20)	3	(3)	1	(1)	0	(0)	1	(0)	2 (2)
Newcastle	2	(4)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	2	(1)	1 (0)
Oxford	31	(33)	1	(3)	1	(2)	1	(0)	3	(1)	2 (1)
TOTAL	115	(113)	8	(9)	3	(3)	6	(3)	9	(6)	12 (8)
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Table 6.9 Pancreas and islet transplants, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 by centre and donor type										
Centre	SPK		SIK		Transplant and donor type		Islet		TOTAL	
	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	PTA/PAK	DBD	DCD	DBD	DCD	DBD
Cambridge	9	9	-	-	2	2	-	-	11	11
Cardiff	2	5	-	-	0	0	-	-	2	5
Edinburgh	11	2	2	2	0	0	7	3	20	7
Guy's	7	4	-	-	0	2	-	-	7	6
ICHNT	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Manchester	17	11	2	1	0	1	1	2	20	15
Newcastle	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	1
Oxford	18	13	1	0	1	1	1	4	21	18
TOTAL	70	45	5	3	3	6	11	10	89	64
ICHNT – Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust										

6.5 Demographic characteristics

The age group, sex, ethnicity and blood group of deceased donors, transplant recipients and patients on the transplant list are shown in **Table 6.10**.

Table 6.10 Demographic characteristics of deceased pancreas donors and transplant recipients, 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026, and transplant list patients at 31 March							
		Donors		Transplant recipients		Active transplant list patients	
		N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
Age	0-17	17	(5)	-	-	-	-
	18-34	90	(27)	20	(13)	86	(23)
	35-49	147	(45)	88	(58)	206	(54)
	50-59	71	(22)	38	(25)	76	(20)
	60-69	4	(1)	7	(5)	10	(3)
	70+	-	-	-	-	1	(0)
	Mean (SD)	40	(12)	44	(9)	42	(9)
Sex	Male	196	(60)	90	(59)	206	(55)
	Female	133	(40)	63	(41)	169	(45)
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	4	-
Ethnicity	White	294	(93)	121	(85)	286	(86)
	Asian	9	(3)	11	(8)	19	(6)
	Black	1	(0)	10	(7)	22	(7)
	Other	11	(3)	1	(1)	6	(2)
	Unknown	14	-	10	-	46	-
Blood group	O	134	(41)	49	(32)	237	(63)
	A	143	(44)	63	(41)	105	(28)
	B	45	(14)	35	(23)	35	(9)
	AB	6	(2)	6	(4)	2	(1)
	Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-
Graft number	First graft	-	-	126	(82)	345	(91)
	Re-graft	-	-	27	(18)	34	(9)
TOTAL		329	(100)	153	(100)	379	(100)