NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT

PAEDIATRIC SUB GROUP OF THE KIDNEY ADVISORY GROUP

KIDNEY DECLINE RATES OF PAEDIATRIC OFFERS

LAY SUMMARY:
This paper monitors kidney offer decline rates for paediatric patients over the past 10 years. It summarises decline rates of kidneys subsequently transplanted by transplant centre and year for each donor type, and the primary reasons centres provided for declining each kidney offer.

Since 2016, the yearly national DBD paediatric offer decline rates have varied around 40%. Over the last 5 years, Newcastle and Nottingham had decline rates for paediatric DBD offers that were significantly higher than the national rate. There are also differences in decline rates between centres for paediatric DCD offers, but the numbers are small, so it is difficult to say if these differences are significant.

Differences in decline rates between centres may lead to delays in the offering process and inequities in access to transplant for children at certain centres. Therefore, it is important to ensure centre practice is consistent. Centres have been asked to regularly review their reasons for declining kidney offers to minimise their individual offer decline rates.

INTRODUCTION

1 This paper routinely monitors the offer decline rates for paediatric patients over the past 10 years. Offer decline rates are monitored by donor type and centre in this paper.

2 There have been actions taken in the past 10 years to review offer declines and minimise variation across centres. Two prospective audits (2014, 2017) examined reasons for declining offers of kidneys for paediatric patients. National guidelines for offer acceptance for paediatric patients have also been produced.

3 On 11 September 2019 the UK Kidney Offering Scheme was introduced. The scheme was designed to address some of the inequities observed in the 2006 scheme. Simulations of the scheme indicated that paediatric offers would initially decline whilst highly sensitised and long waiting patients are prioritised.

4 Since September 2014, the national DCD kidney allocation scheme and subsequent 2019 Kidney Offering Scheme has enabled paediatric patients to receive more offers from DCD donors.

DATA

5 Data were obtained from the UK Transplant Registry on all deceased donor single kidney-only transplants performed in the UK between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

6 The outcomes of offering data relating to paediatric offers to named individual patients (aged under 18 years) were analysed. Only offers where the kidney was subsequently transplanted are included in this paper. Offers to clinically urgent patients and patients registered at adult-only centres are excluded. Declined offers were defined as those immediately declined and those where the kidney was accepted but not used for the

named patient. Offers declined due to "*recipient did not need transplant*" or "*donor already accepted for this recipient"* are excluded throughout this paper and the adult offer decline rates have been adjusted for comparison so may appear different to the 2024/2025 kidney annual report. To note, centre-based offering in Tier B occurred between 30 March 2020 – 15 June 2020.

7 Centre specific decline rates have been calculated for the last five calendar years. Centre specific DBD offer decline rates were calculated for each centre and compared with the national rate using funnel plot analysis. Centre specific DCD offer decline rates were calculated for each centre but have not been compared in a funnel plot, due to the small numbers.

8 Funnel plots were used to compare centre specific DBD offer decline rates and indicate how consistent the rates of the individual transplant centres are with the national rate (**Figure 1**). The overall national offer decline rate is shown by the straight dotted line while the 95% and 99.8% confidence limits are indicated by a thin solid and thick dotted line, respectively. Each dot in the plot represents an individual transplant centre. Centres that are positioned above the upper limits indicate an offer decline rate that is higher than the national rate, whilst centres positioned below the lower limits indicate an offer decline rate that is lower than the national rate.

9 Breakdowns of the number of offers and decline rates by calendar year and donor type are presented in **Tables A1** and **A2** in the appendix.

DBD OFFER DECLINE RATES

10 **Figure 1** and **Table 1a** compare individual centre offer decline rates with the national rate for paediatric offers of DBD kidneys. **Table 1b** shows the primary reasons provided for declining each kidney offer. The national decline rate is 36% which is lower than the national decline rate for adult offers of standard criteria DBD donors (51% in 2024/25).

11 The DBD decline rate ranged from 22% to 70% across centres. Newcastle and Nottingham lie above the upper 95% confidence interval suggesting that they may have offer decline rates that are significantly higher than the national rate. The primary reasons for declining a DBD offer in the last 5 years was that either the donor or the organ were considered unsuitable.

Figure 1 Funnel plot of kidney transplant centre DBD kidney decline rates for paediatric patients, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025

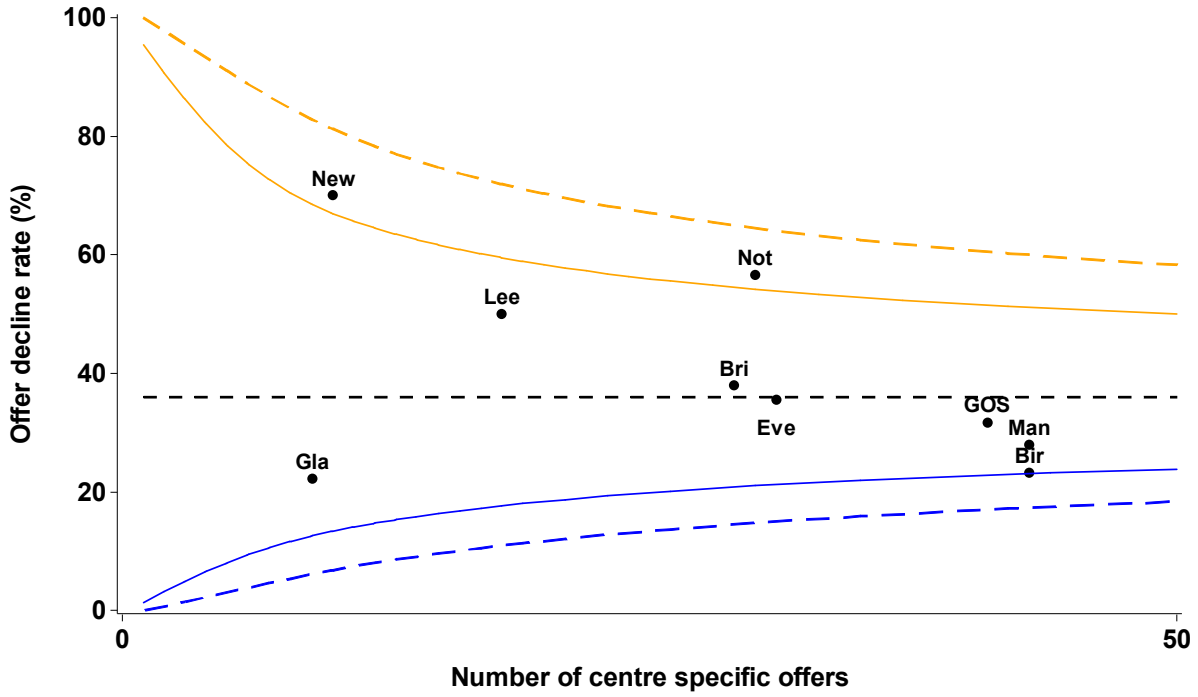


Table 1a Paediatric DBD donor kidney offer decline rates by kidney transplant centre where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025

Centre	No. patients receiving offers	No. offers	Decline rate
Belfast	2	2	(0)
Newcastle	4	10	(70)
Leeds	13	18	(50)
Nottingham	21	30	(57)
London, Evelina	24	31	(35)
Bristol	21	29	(38)
Birmingham	38	43	(23)
Manchester	35	43	(28)
Glasgow	8	9	(22)
London, Great Ormond Street	34	41	(32)
UK	**200**	**256**	**(36)**

Centre has reached the upper 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the upper 95% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 99.8% confidence limit
Centre has reached the lower 95% confidence limit

Table 1b Paediatric DBD donor kidney offer decline reasons by kidney transplant centre where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025

Centre	Donor unsuitable	Organ unsuitable	Recipient reasons	Other[1]
Belfast	-	-	-	-
Newcastle	2 (29%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	2 (29%)
Leeds	3 (33%)	6 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Nottingham	6 (35%)	4 (24%)	5 (29%)	2 (12%)
London, Evelina	4 (36%)	1 (9%)	6 (55%)	0 (0%)
Bristol	3 (27%)	6 (55%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)
Birmingham	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)
Manchester	1 (8%)	8 (67%)	2 (17%)	1 (8%)
Glasgow	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
London, Great Ormond Street	5 (38%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)
UK	**30 (33%)**	**39 (42%)**	**15 (16%)**	**8 (9%)**

[1]One decline due to logistic reasons, and one due to centre reasons have been grouped with Other

12 National decline rates are presented by calendar year in **Table 2**. Since 2016, the national paediatric offer decline rates have fluctuated around 40%. The total number of DBD offers reduced from 82 in 2016 to 50 in 2025.

Table 2 Paediatric DBD donor kidney offer decline rates by offer year where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2025

Offer year	No. patients receiving offers	No. offers	Decline rate
2016	67	82	(34)
2017	60	83	(47)
2018	69	82	(41)
2019*	68	89	(43)
2020	46	56	(54)
2021	58	65	(42)
2022	43	48	(38)
2023	44	51	(31)
2024	35	42	(36)
2025	42	50	(32)
UK	**532**	**648**	**(40)**

*Note, 2019 includes offers from both the 2006 KAS and the 2019 KOS

DCD OFFER DECLINE RATES

13 **Table 3a** compares individual centre offer decline rates in the past 5 calendar years with the national rate for offers of DCD kidneys to paediatric patients. **Table 3b** shows the primary reasons provided for declining each kidney offer. The national DCD offer decline

rate is 56% which is slightly higher than the national decline rate for adult offers of standard criteria DCD donors (53% in 2024/25). Although the numbers are low, there is some indication of variation in offer decline rates across centres. The primary reasons for declining a DCD offer in the last 5 years was that either the donor or the organ were considered unsuitable.

Table 3a Paediatric DCD donor kidney offer decline rates by kidney transplant centre where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025

Centre	No. patients receiving offers	No. offers	Decline rate
Belfast	0	0	-
Newcastle	6	8	(88)
Leeds	12	16	(81)
Nottingham	16	28	(71)
London, Evelina	13	14	(57)
Bristol	9	9	(56)
Birmingham	19	23	(48)
Manchester	20	22	(45)
Glasgow	6	6	(17)
London, Great Ormond Street	16	18	(33)
UK	**117**	**144**	**(56)**

Table 3b Paediatric DCD donor kidney offer decline reasons by kidney transplant centre where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025

Centre	Donor unsuitable	Organ unsuitable	Recipient reasons	Other[1]
Belfast	-	-	-	-
Newcastle	5 (71%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Leeds	5 (38%)	5 (38%)	1 (8%)	2 (15%)
Nottingham	7 (35%)	7 (35%)	1 (5%)	5 (25%)
London, Evelina	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)
Bristol	2 (40%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)
Birmingham	2 (18%)	7 (64%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)
Manchester	2 (20%)	4 (40%)	1 (10%)	3 (30%)
Glasgow	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
London, Great Ormond Street	2 (33%)	2 (33%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)
UK	**28 (35%)**	**33 (41%)**	**4 (5%)**	**16 (20%)**

[1]Three declines due to logistic reasons, one due to centre reasons, and one due to consent/authorisation have been grouped with Other

14 **Table 4** shows the national DCD decline rates in the last 10 years by calendar year. Between 3rd September 2014 – 10 September 2019, the National DCD kidney allocation scheme meant that paediatric patients could receive offers from a DCD donor via centre-based offering. During this period, only patient specific offers have been included in **Table 4** as they are easily identified. DCD kidney offers to the local centre where a

paediatric patient ranked 1st, but was not named at offer, are not included. Following the introduction of the 2019 Kidney Offering Scheme, DBD and DCD kidneys are offered within the same national scheme.

Table 4 Paediatric DCD donor kidney offer decline rates by offer year where the kidney was subsequently transplanted, 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2025

Offer year	No. patients receiving offers	No. offers	Decline rate
2016	4	4	(0)
2017	11	12	(83)
2018	12	13	(62)
2019*	2	2	(50)
2020	17	17	(59)
2021	23	23	(39)
2022	27	31	(65)
2023	20	23	(52)
2024	21	22	(68)
2025	40	45	(56)
UK	**177**	**192**	**(57)**

Note: Only patient named offers included up to 10 September 2019.
*Note, 2019 includes offers from both the 2006 KAS and the 2019 KOS

SUMMARY

15 Since 2016, the national DBD paediatric offer decline rates have fluctuated around 40%. For paediatric DBD kidney offers, Newcastle and Nottingham had decline rates higher than the upper 95% confidence limit. The national decline rate for DCD offers over the last 10 years was 57%. There is also variation in paediatric DCD declines across centres, however as the numbers are small it is difficult to say if these differences are significant.

RECOMMENDATION

16 While it is accepted that offer decline rates do not necessarily impact on kidney utilisation, significant variation in these rates is likely to lead to delays in the offering process and inequities in access to transplant for children listed at centres with notably higher offer decline rates. For this reason, it is important to ensure centre practice is consistent.

17 Members are asked to regularly review their reasons for declining kidney offers in order to minimise offer decline rates within their individual transplant centres.

Mia Poore **April 2026**
Statistics and Clinical Research

Appendix

Table A1 Paediatric DBD kidney offers by offer centre, 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2025

	Number of offers (% declined)										
Centre	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**Total**
Belfast	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	**5 (0)**
Newcastle	7 (43)	4 (100)	3 (33)	4 (25)	2 (50)	3 (67)	3 (67)	1 (100)	1 (100)	2 (50)	**30 (57)**
Leeds	7 (29)	11 (36)	6 (17)	10 (60)	5 (40)	3 (33)	2 (50)	2 (0)	4 (50)	7 (71)	**57 (42)**
Nottingham	19 (26)	9 (56)	9 (33)	8 (50)	16 (69)	9 (56)	6 (83)	9 (67)	3 (0)	3 (33)	**91 (49)**
London, Evelina	4 (50)	14 (43)	14 (50)	10 (30)	4 (75)	8 (50)	6 (33)	7 (0)	3 (67)	7 (43)	**77 (42)**
Bristol	13 (46)	12 (42)	10 (60)	15 (53)	7 (86)	14 (57)	8 (38)	2 (0)	3 (0)	2 (0)	**86 (49)**
Birmingham	11 (36)	8 (50)	11 (55)	16 (44)	9 (44)	10 (40)	11 (27)	9 (11)	7 (14)	6 (17)	**98 (36)**
Manchester	9 (33)	5 (40)	12 (33)	4 (25)	4 (25)	9 (11)	2 (0)	11 (36)	9 (44)	12 (25)	**77 (30)**
Glasgow	1 (0)	6 (33)	5 (40)	3 (67)	2 (0)	1 (0)	4 (50)	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	**26 (31)**
London, Great Ormond Street	9 (33)	14 (50)	12 (33)	18 (33)	7 (29)	8 (25)	6 (0)	9 (44)	9 (56)	9 (22)	**101 (35)**
Total	**82 (34)**	**83 (47)**	**82 (41)**	**89 (43)**	**56 (54)**	**65 (42)**	**48 (38)**	**51 (31)**	**42 (36)**	**50 (32)**	**648 (40)**

Table A2 Paediatric DCD kidney offers by offer centre, 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2025

	Number of offers (% declined)										
Centre	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**Total**
Newcastle	0 (0)	1 (100)	0 (0)	1 (0)	2 (100)	2 (100)	3 (100)	1 (0)	2 (100)	0 (0)	**12 (83)**
Leeds	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (100)	0 (0)	1 (100)	2 (50)	1 (100)	0 (0)	4 (100)	9 (78)	**19 (84)**
Nottingham	1 (0)	2 (0)	2 (100)	1 (100)	2 (100)	3 (33)	7 (86)	4 (100)	5 (100)	9 (44)	**36 (69)**
London, Evelina	0 (0)	2 (100)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (100)	3 (33)	1 (100)	3 (100)	0 (0)	7 (43)	**18 (61)**
Bristol	0 (0)	2 (100)	2 (100)	0 (0)	3 (33)	2 (50)	4 (50)	0 (0)	1 (0)	2 (100)	**16 (63)**
Birmingham	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (100)	0 (0)	4 (50)	4 (75)	6 (33)	4 (25)	4 (50)	5 (60)	**29 (52)**
Manchester	3 (0)	1 (100)	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	3 (0)	5 (80)	3 (67)	2 (50)	9 (33)	**30 (37)**
Glasgow	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	1 (100)	**9 (11)**
London, Great Ormond Street	0 (0)	4 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (100)	3 (0)	3 (33)	6 (33)	3 (33)	3 (67)	**23 (48)**
Total	**4 (0)**	**12 (83)**	**13 (62)**	**2 (50)**	**17 (59)**	**23 (39)**	**31 (65)**	**23 (52)**	**22 (68)**	**45 (56)**	**192 (57)**