



Blood and Transplant

NHSBT Board

May 25 2017

Reports from the UK Health Departments

Reports from the Scottish and Welsh Health Departments attached.

ORGAN DONATION – UPDATE FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

The very positive progress in increasing deceased donor numbers continued throughout 2016-17. There were 133 deceased organ donors in total in Scotland, which is a significant 34% increase compared to 2015-16. The Scottish SNODs and ICU staff all worked hard with donor families to help achieve this. While the progress so far in 2017-18 has been slower, we hope that this positive culture in favour of organ donation will continue.

NHSBT staff hosted a very moving tribute to deceased donors at an excellent thanksgiving event for donor families and transplant recipients in Glasgow on 4 May.

Following the consultation on measures to increase numbers of successful organ and tissue donations, which received over 800 responses, copies of all the responses where respondents gave permission for their response to be published are now available on the [Scottish Government website](#). An independent analysis of the responses will be published in due course, alongside an announcement from Scottish Ministers about next steps.

A 'super meeting' of all Scottish Organ Donation Committees is being held on 25 May to discuss the recent review of Scottish Donation Committees and showcase examples of good practice which were identified in the review. Each Committee will be encouraged at the meeting to agree a number of key improvements it can take forward to improve its effectiveness in promoting donation.

The Scottish project which aims to build on neonatal and paediatric organ and tissue donation is progressing and draft guidance is being prepared for staff in neonatal and paediatric intensive care units in particular, along with separate guidance for staff in antenatal units. This project will also take forward revisions to the agreement between the Scottish Donation and Transplant Group and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to ensure that the agreement fully considers the issues around potential donation from children and babies.

Building on NHSBT's work on increasing organ utilisation and the recommendations in 'Taking Organ Utilisation to 2020', the Scottish Government is working with NHSBT and our lead clinician for organ transplantation, John Casey, to host two seminars which will focus on how we can improve organ utilisation in Scotland. The first event in June will focus on abdominal organs, while the second event in September will focus on cardiothoracic organs.

Finally, liaison continues with North Lanarkshire Council, Transplant Sport and NHSBT to publicise the Transplant Games, which will be held in North Lanarkshire at the end of July, and to raise awareness of organ donation and transplantation via the event.

UPDATE FROM THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

Human Transplantation (Wales) Act 2013

Donor numbers from Welsh hospitals have fallen slightly in 2016-17 to 61 from 64 the previous financial year.

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017 data from NHSBT showed

- an increase in consent from 59% in 2015-16 to 64% in 2016-17 ;
- an increase in the number of families who did not support their relatives Organ Donor Register decision from 4 in 2015-16 to 9 in 2016-17 , or support deemed consent from 4 in 2015-16 to 12 in 2016-17.

Communication engagement

During this year the focus of our communication campaign will change to cover the role of the family when an individual has recorded an opt-in decision on the organ donor register, or has chosen to have their consent deemed. The campaign will be aimed at:

- Raising the importance of early discussions in the family setting about consent intentions.
- Reducing the numbers of organ donors not donating by those who have consented due to decisions by the family.

Welsh language standards

The Welsh Language Commissioner has asked that NHS Blood and Transplant Authority be added to the Regulations making Welsh Language Standards for the health sector. An initial meeting has taken place between NHSBT and Welsh Government indicating where the standards might apply for NHSBT. Further work will be undertaken by Welsh Government and discussions undertaken with NHSBT over the next few months.

NHSBT schools education pack

Significant progress has been made to amend the NHSBT schools education pack to be suitable for use in Welsh Schools. The aim is to launch during Organ Donation week i.e. w/c 5th September 2017.