

ODT Associate Medical Director's Communication



Blood and Transplant



NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Colleagues,

There are quite a number of varied things to report this month.

First, I am very pleased to welcome Laura Ramsay as Lead Recipient Coordinator, to the team. Over the years I have seen many examples of transplant units where recipient coordinators have been the glue that holds the transplant team together. These nursing staff, with specialist skills, can build up experience working with patients and transplant clinicians for many years – this is in contrast to doctors in training who spend a much shorter time with any one unit. It is a little surprise, therefore, that recipient coordinators can become such an important part of the transplant team. I asked Laura to say a few words about her new role:



I am delighted to have been appointed into the Lead Nurse position for Recipient Coordination. My background is in liver transplant coordination at King's College Hospital, with recent experience in live liver donation. I feel very strongly about engaging the Recipient Coordinators with the great work that is being done by NHSBT. Therefore my initial priorities are to develop strong and supportive networks within the group to strengthen understanding and appreciation between the organisation and the clinical world, for a more collaborative

approach to the privileged work that we do. I intend to visit as many of the transplant centres as possible in the coming months to get a true understanding of the day to day issues faced at the front line of transplantation.

HCV positive to negative

Last week there was the first meeting of a large number of interested people regarding the possible use of HCV positive organs in HCV negative recipients. The new SaBTO guidance on microbiological safety will be permissive of such an approach but of course there are major issues to be overcome, not least the provision of the new anti-HCV drugs.

Ahmed Elsharkawy, Chair of British Viral Hepatitis Group, is convener of the national working group on the topic. Ahmed coordinated this meeting and it is expected that a consensus statement, with the full knowledge of commissioners, will be produced. I will ask Ahmed, in future editions of this newsletter, to keep us up to date.

Regional Clinical Lead for Organ Donation review

Dale Gardiner has recently completed, along with colleagues, an important review of all Regional Clinical Leads. It was felt timely to have this review and I'm very grateful to Dale for having undertaken a huge amount of work to complete the process. I'm also grateful to all 10 newly appointed (re-appointed) Regional Leads who have backed the process and viewed it as a way in which their own enthusiasm for the role can be demonstrated.

QUOD (Quality in Organ Donation) Patient Information Leaflet

It is accepted that potential recipients for a transplant where the donor organ has undergone QUOD biopsy should receive an information leaflet giving important facts about this biopsy. Of course this is not consent, since the biopsy has been performed prior to the organ allocation, however it does allow patients to be aware of the fact that a biopsy has been performed and all possible consequences of that biopsy. These leaflets are now available. Rutger Ploeg as Head of the QUOD team adds the following:

An update on Information about QUOD

To date, more than 2,500 donors have been included in the Quality in Organ Donation (QUOD) programme which provides a research and service development infrastructure established by NHSBT in close collaboration with academic centres. This implies availability of more than 50,000 samples representing approximately 200,000 bio bank items with matching clinical donor and recipient data. Currently, 28 research projects from various research groups in the UK are active, using samples from the QUOD bio resource while two national service developments are supported by the QUOD infrastructure.

Recently, the Medical Research Council has awarded a significant grant application submitted by Oxford and Newcastle Universities and NHS Trusts on behalf of QUOD and NHSBT. This grant will allow further extension of the bio resource towards the collection of heart, lung and pancreas samples as well as creating an atlas with histopathological information and preparation for deep phenotyping.

To ensure that potential recipients in transplant centres are fully informed about the QUOD programme which provides a research and service development infrastructure established by NHSBT in close collaboration with academic centres, a dedicated information leaflet is now available. This leaflet explains to patients that at time of organ donation and retrieval - provided donor families have consented for research - a few blood and urine samples as well as tissue biopsies are obtained. These samples are processed and stored in the QUOD bio bank until requested for approved and anonymised projects that aim to improve the quality of donor organs and utilisation for transplantation. The leaflet can be downloaded from the NHSBT- ODT microsite whenever the transplant team sees fit to inform the potential recipient of an organ.

With best wishes



Professor John Forsythe
Medical Director
Organ Donation & Transplantation Directorate

ODT SMT Performance Report: Please take the time to read the Organ Donation and Transplantation Performance Report for the first half of 2017/18 [here](#) and determine what else you can do to make 2017/18 another record year.

NHSBT data on Organ Donation and Transplantation: The Organ Donation and Transplantation Annual Activity Report for 2016/17 is now available on the ODT website. You can access it through the following link
<http://www.odt.nhs.uk/statistics-and-reports/annual-activity-report/>

NHSBT Board: Board papers are published after each meeting and are available at: <http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/who-we-are/introducing-the-board/board-papers/>

New Cautionary Tales: Please click [here](#) for all issues, including November 2017 issue.

Organ Donation Marketing and Campaigns Bulletin: Shared with internal clinical staff for Organ Donation and Transplantation plus the wider community attached [here](#) is Issue No 10.

FUTURE ODT MEETINGS/EVENTS: 2017/2018

NODC (National Organ Donation Committee)

Tuesday 14th November 2017, 11:00-16:00, Radisson Blu Edwardian, Tottenham Court Road, London

LAG (Liver Advisory Group)

Wednesday 22nd November 2017, RCOA, Red Lion Square, London

KAG (Kidney Advisory Group)

Thursday 30th November 2017, CS2, ODT, Stoke Gifford, Bristol

AGChC (Advisory Group Chairs Committee)

Tuesday 5th December 2017, 10:30 – 13:30, MSE Meeting Rooms, London

TPRC (Transplant Policy Review Committee)

Tuesday 5th December 2017, 14:00 – 16:00, MSE Meeting Rooms, London

RTSM (Renal Transplant Services Meeting)

Wednesday 24th January 2018, The Geological Society, London

NODC PSG (Paediatric sub-group)

Tuesday 30th January 2018, London venue to be confirmed

NODC (National Organ Donation Committee)

Tuesday 27th February 2018, London venue to be confirmed

ODT Care (Organ Donation and Transplantation Care)

Tuesday 6th February 2018, Royal York Hotel, York

NHSBT Multi - Organ Retrieval Masterclass

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December 2017, De Vere Tortworth Court Hotel and Vesalius Clinical Training Unit, Centre for Applied Anatomy, Bristol University.

This is a two-day annual workshop designed to optimise the quality of organs offered for transplantation by improving retrieval practice. The course is aimed at surgical trainees with an interest in abdominal (liver, pancreas, kidney) and cardio-thoracic (heart, lung) organ donation and transplantation. It includes lectures and workshops together with practical demonstrations of relevant techniques involving all participants. For those who seek competency to participate in a National Organ Retrieval Service team in the UK this Masterclass is a mandatory part of the required competency accreditation as a retrieval surgeon in the UK.

To register your interest, please send your details to:

Caroline.wills@nhsbt.nhs.uk

INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES:

Blood and Transplant Matters: Please click [here](#) for issue 51.

Organ Donation & Transplantation – Wales E Bulletin: Please click [here](#) for issue 50.

The Latest Donor Family Network's latest newsletter: Can be found here <http://www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk/i/2017/07/Summer-2017.pdf>

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Organ Donation and Transplantation in Wales Conference: 1st December 2017, 9:30-16:00, All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY.

Further details and registration information can be found at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/towards-2020-organ-donation-and-transplantation-in-wales-conference-tickets-34748734400>

European Cornea & Cell Transplant Registry Course for Clinical Improvement – Lisbon Saturday 7th October 2017: This course will inform about the importance of quality improvement work. The ECCTR system will be presented as a tool to improve quality in corneal transplant surgery. Legal aspects of an international registry including ownership of data and ethical aspects will be discussed. Detailed instructions of how to enter data into the system and take out reports will be given. Please click [here](#) for further information.

Thursday 23rd November, London - Winter Ethics Symposium: This year's focus is paediatric organ donation and transplantation in the UK.

Complex clinical cases, professional expertise, personal experience and public policy create an ambitious programme to address a range of challenging ethical issues.

- Representatives from NHSBT and BTS will highlight obstacles to implementing paediatric donation and organ allocation prioritisation in the UK.
- Clinicians working in neonatal and paediatric intensive care units and those involved in the care and possible transplantation of children will set out how a range of potential paediatric donors and transplant recipients are identified and managed and provide insight into factors affecting the development of strategies to expand the paediatric donor pool.
- Paediatric donor and recipient families will share their personal stories, and ways to identify and address the psychological impact of bereavement in paediatric donation will be discussed.
- Management of the adolescent living donor and strategies to optimise adherence and transition among adolescent recipients will be addressed.

Friday 24th November 2017, London - Living Donor Forum: This year's theme is Living Donor risk and, in particular, where the clinician perspective may be at odds with that of the prospective donor. Is this Caring Concern or Pompous Paternalism? How difficult is it for Living Donors to donate?

The day will take the form of an interactive discussion and debate between physicians and surgeons, coordinators, patients and carers. Come with an open mind or prepare to have your assumptions challenged!

Also save the date for the **British Transplantation Society 2018 Congress:** **14th - 16th March 2018 in Brighton.** For more information and to register visit www.bts.org.uk