

ODT Associate Medical Director's Communication



MAY 2017

Dear Colleagues,

This month I would like to focus on Research and Innovation and the team who help us carry out work in this area for ODT and also fulfil functions devolved from HTA to ODT in certain circumstances.

Although transplant science has come a very long way in a few short years, there remains much to do and the science of new technologies (for example new methods for preservation and perfusion), combined with the support of basic science in transplant immunology, remain a priority.

I'm grateful to Maria, Claire, Gabi and the team who have drawn together a few paragraphs which, hopefully, will bring everyone up to date about action in this vital area.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Forsythe".

Professor John Forsythe
Medical Director
Organ Donation & Transplantation Directorate

RINTAG (Research, Innovation and Novel Technologies Advisory Group) Update

New Pilot: Research Organ Allocation Policy

In the autumn of 2015, RINTAG appointed a sub-group to undertake a review of NHSBT ODTs policies and processes used to allocate retrieved organs for research. The Group proposed to move away from the previous geographically driven scheme in favour of national transplant priorities. The RINTAG secretariat will play a crucial part in the pre-screening application phase, making bi-monthly ranking recommendations to RINTAG.

The new research organ allocation scheme was approved and subsequently launched on 20th February 2017, to provide an equitable and transparent process of ranking research studies that require access to donated organs, facilitated via the Duty Office. Under the scheme, all studies are ranked according to a set of scoring criteria based on scientific content, impact on organ donation and transplantation and if they align with the 2020 Strategy. Organs are then allocated to the highest ranking studies. The scheme will be reviewed by RINTAG after 6 months and recommendations put to the ODT Senior Management Team regarding next steps for the policy.

RINTAG - BTS Stakeholder meeting

The joint annual RINTAG - BTS Stakeholder day was held in London in January 2017. The meeting included a horizon scanning session exploring 3D Organ printing, among other cutting-edge presentations. Delegates also heard about RINTAG's priorities for the future, focussing on embedding the new allocation policy for research organs and new work to explore how the numbers of organs available for research could be increased.



ODT Research Application Process

In 2016, RINTAG has approved 13 research proposals out of 14 submissions and facilitated the registration of 6 additional studies. In total, the ODT Research Registry now comprises 42 active studies.

Following feedback from researchers, RINTAG has developed a new Research Application Handbook for prospective researchers. The handbook outlines the process and requirements to gain research approval from NHSBT ODT, via RINTAG. We are grateful to Professor Chris Watson and Nick Watkins for leading this work. We would welcome any comments about the new handbook, please e-mail [ODT - Research](#)

NHSBT is committed to supporting and facilitating research wherever possible. Often, this involves changing the processes, training Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation and liaising with the relevant Advisory Groups and hospitals. Researchers should contact us at the earliest possible stage to discuss new research proposals, so that we can advise on what may need to be done to facilitate them and start any work that may be required within NHSBT. Please contact us at [ODT - Research](#).

ODT SMT Performance Report: As you know, our theme for this year is **Missed Opportunities**. In April, there were 28 families whose loved one was not on the ODR who were approached for a formal organ donation discussion without a Specialist Nurse; Only one family said yes (4%). Seventeen more families may have said yes in April if a Specialist Nurse had been present (63% consent/authorisation rate). Therefore, please follow best practice every time by ensuring that every organ donation discussion with a family involves a Specialist Nurse.

The end of year performance report for 2016/17 is available [here](#). Together let's miss no opportunity to make a transplant happen.

NHSBT data on Organ Donation and Transplantation: Follow this link <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/> to access a wealth of data on Organ Donation and Transplantation activity in the UK, including the Annual Activity Report, Organ Specific Annual and Interim Reports and other reports. New Interim Cardiothoracic and Pancreas Reports are available at the bottom of this webpage: <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/organ-specific-reports/>. We have recently asked for your feedback on the contents of the Organ Specific Annual Reports. Thank you to those who responded. We are currently reviewing the responses and will be incorporating changes into this year's reports, due to be published in the summer. Please note that access to data on the UK Transplant Registry can be requested through the Statistics and Clinical Studies Department. More information can be found here: <http://www.odt.nhs.uk/uk-transplant-registry/data/>.

Closure of the Sickle Cell Hepatopathy Service Evaluation. At their November 2016 meeting, members of the Liver Advisory Group (LAG) agreed to close the service evaluation to register and transplant patients with sickle cell hepatopathy. From 2nd May 2017, patients with this condition should be referred to the National Appeals Panel of the LAG for consideration for registration. The appeals process is described in [Section 4 of Policy POL195, Liver Transplantation: Selection and Recipient Registration](#).

Change to the Super-Urgent Liver Appeal Process. On 13th April 2017, a new process to refer super-urgent liver cases to the National Appeals Panel of the Liver Advisory Group was introduced. The change seeks to improve response rates by Panel members and timescales for decisions. The details of the new process are available in [Section 4 of Policy POL195, Liver Transplantation: Selection and Recipient Registration](#).

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/>

Cautionary Tales: Please click [here](#) for the April 2017 issue.

Statistics and Clinical Studies: Please click [here](#) for the up-to-date April 2017 NHSBT Structure.

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 8.

FUTURE ODT MEETINGS/EVENTS: 2017

- **RINTAG (Research, Innovation & Novel Technologies Advisory Group)**
Monday 15th May 2017 - The Royal College of Anaesthetists, London
- **CTAG Patient Group Meeting**
Monday 5th June 2017 – Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London
- **NODC (National Organ Donation Committee)**
Tuesday 6th June 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London

- **KAG (Kidney Advisory Group)**
Thursday 8th June 2017 - 12 Bloomsbury Square, London
- **ODT Care (Organ Donation and Transplantation Care)**
Tuesday 13th June 2017 - The Principal York Hotel, York
- **Kidney Patient Group Meeting**
Tuesday 4th July 2017 - Citadines Holborn, Covent Garden, High Holborn, London
- **AGChC (Advisory Group Chairs Committee)**
Friday 7th July 2017 - First Floor Board Room, West End Donor Centre, London
- **TPRC (Transplant Policy Review Committee)**
Friday 7th July 2017 - First Floor Board Room, West End Donor Centre, London
- **Liver Patient Group meeting**
Tuesday 11th July 2017 - West End Donor Centre, London
- **NRG (National Retrieval Group)**
Wednesday 12th July 2017 - Association of Anaesthetists, Portland Place, London

INFORMATION FROM OTHER BODIES:

Blood and Transplant Matters: Please click [here](#) for issue 50.

Organ Donation and Transplantation – Wales E Bulletin: Please click [here](#) for Issue 49

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

International Hands-on Course - Live Donor Course Nephrectomy (LiDo course)

28th – 30th June 2017. Erasmus MC Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Educational Objectives: To provide a podium for transplant surgeons and urologists who are specialising in live donor kidney transplantation and to learn the surgical techniques for minimally-invasive kidney donation under the guidance of established and internationally recognised leaders in the field.

Target Group: Transplant surgeons and urologists coming mainly from Europe.

Surgeons or urologists in a transplant fellowship or consultant position who want to start a live kidney donation programme.

Surgeons who want to enrich their surgical skills for live donor nephrectomy. Please follow this link for further information.

BigBangBarcelona Conference: 24th – 27th September 2017 be inspired, educated, connected and entertained. Come and experience a new level of medical meetings in transplantation. At ESOT we have put a focus on the quality of the science but also the formats in which the content is delivered and the opportunity to network with your colleagues. Get engaged in this interactive meeting and take an active role in shaping the future of transplantation research and medicine. The ESOT 2017 Second Announcement is now available for download, with more information on the Congress' ground breaking sessions and speciality symposia.

<http://esot2017.esot.org/news/second-announcement-now-available>