

NHSBT Report for SDTG – March 2021

The UK wide Organ Donation and Transplantation Strategy is now awaiting final sign off from the Department of Health and Social Care prior to setting an official launch date. NHSBT is grateful to the Scottish Government for their ongoing partnership working and support throughout the design and approval process. The nature of the Strategy launch will be determined by taking into consideration the societal restrictions in place at that time across the UK as a consequence of the ongoing work to suppress the COVID-19 virus.

On Friday 4th February the newly appointed Scottish Minister for Public Health and Sport - Mairi Gougeon, met with Anthony Clarkson and Professor John Forsythe from NHS Blood and Transplant and Samantha Baker from the Scottish Government. The meeting was productive and allowed the Minister to explore Organ Donation and Transplantation in Scotland and form working relationships with the attendees. NHS Blood and Transplant are grateful for the Ministers' time during what is an exceptionally challenging time for the Department.

As of 28/02/21 there have been 1052 deceased organ donors and 2635 deceased organ donor transplants across the UK. Organ Donation and Transplantation continues to be maintained through this lockdown, although as earlier in the year numbers remain reduced by approximately 28% from the 19/21 equivalent period.

As of 5th March 2021 there have been 82 deceased organ donors from Scottish Hospitals in 20/21. During this same period there have been 311 organ transplants from deceased and living donors within Scottish hospitals, of these 159 were deceased Kidneys, 45 living kidneys, 9 kidney/pancreas, 3 Islets, 17 Hearts, 7 Lungs, 66 deceased Livers, 4 live Livers and 1 Intestinal.

On 4 March 2021 there were 2,765,567 people residing in Scotland on the UK Organ Donor Register. This is 50.6% of the Scottish population. There was a considerable increase in the number of new ODR opt-out registrations in February, 75% (41k) of which were in Scotland as we approach the change in Scottish Legislation on 26 March. So far this year, we have typically seen around 10% of ODR opt-ins coming from Scotland each month; although February opt-in data is provisional, currently 17% of ODR opt-ins in February were in Scotland (12k).

The Opt Out team in England is making final arrangements to transition to 'Business as Usual' on 1st April 2021. To date there have been 306 deemed consents, leading to 590 life-saving transplants. The work to prepare for Scotland's legislation change is complete and the teams are ready for opt out legislation to come in to force on the 26th March. From 1st April 2021 the legislation programme will be succeeded by a project team, which will oversee the embedding phase in Scotland as well as delivery on the Isle of Man, Guernsey, and Northern Ireland.

The joint British Transplantation Society and NHS Blood and Transplant Congress was held on 24th and 25th February 2021. COVID restrictions resulted in the first ever fully digital Congress with a selection of plenary, themed and open sessions offering

attendees the opportunity to watch and interact with professionals from across the Donation and Transplantation pathway. With a total of 939 attendees over the 2 days, including some patient and third-party partners who had never previously been able to access an in-person event, the feedback thus far indicates that Congress was considered to be a success by those attending. Learning from the event is being actively considered and NHSBT is keen to ensure that the opening up of attendance delivered by digital services is maintained moving forward, even when the Congress returns to being primarily delivered as an in-person event.

Corporate focus is also upon the recent decision to lift the ban on the use of UK plasma for fractionation. The ban on UK plasma had been in place since 1998 and since that time the UK has been entirely dependent upon imported plasma derived products for UK patients. NHS Blood and Transplant is working to consider the implications of this change.

Anthony Clarkson

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