

Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 18 December 2019

Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (H&I)

Support for Transplantation in Scotland

Staffing

Glasgow H&I: 1 band 6 and 1 band 8b vacancies at advertisement stage.

Edinburgh H&I: All substantive posts filled

On call rotas

The one in four Consultant/Principal Clinical Scientist rota supporting deceased donor kidney, SPK, islet and cardiac transplantation in Scotland will be reduced to a 1:3 rota for a period in early 2020 due to the relocation of a senior colleague from Glasgow to take up the Head position for the H&I lab in Newcastle.

Quality in Organ Donation (QuOD) project

UK wide study, ongoing, funded until 2020.

Donor HLA typing

The new process for sending deceased donor bloods to labs earlier to reduce reporting time to ODT has been implemented. In cases where the potential donor is on the Organ Donor Register or has otherwise expressed a decision to donate, clinical staff at the donor site can now send bloods for HLA typing prior to the SNOD attending the donor hospital site.

Edinburgh: In the period Jan-Nov 2019, 50 donors have been HLA typed, with a mean turnaround from sample receipt to reporting to ODT of 3 hours 49 minutes.

Glasgow: In the period April - Nov 2019 47 donors have been HLA typed, with a mean turnaround from sample receipt to reporting to ODT of 3 hours 30 minutes.

New deceased donor kidney offering scheme

As predicted the implementation of the new deceased donor kidney offering scheme has led to increased offers for highly sensitised patients. Since the 1st October 2019, 47% Edinburgh and 26% Glasgow, deceased donor kidney transplants have been for highly sensitised patients compared with 13% Edinburgh and 14% Glasgow in the period Jan-Sept 2019. Although these transplants may require more H&I testing at the time of transplant, both H&I labs are able to perform crossmatches when required using peripheral blood samples which should help to maintain low cold ischaemia times.

Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 18 December 2019**Donor Characterisation Review**

A number of meetings of NHSBT-ODT Donor Characterisation Review Working Groups have taken place in the last few months. It has become clear that NHSBT will not commission Donor Characterisation testing (HLA typing and microbiology tests) in Scotland (and Wales and NI), but only in England. NSS-NSD are involved in meetings of Working Group 2 (Finance and Commissioning) and are considering future funding arrangements to ensure donor testing is maintained in the two H&I labs in Scotland. DT is involved in ongoing meetings of Working Group 3 looking at electronic reporting of donor testing results (HLA typing and micro) to ODT.

Joint European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) and British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (BSHI) Conference, 26th-29th April 2020, Glasgow

Planning for this meeting, to be held at the SEC with ~1000 delegates, is well underway. AML and DT are co-organisers along with Helen McFarlane from the Glasgow H&I lab. The meeting brings together clinical and research staff working in histocompatibility and immunogenetics from throughout Europe and beyond. Details can be found at <https://www.efi2020.org.uk/>.

Dave Turner

Consultant Clinical Scientist
Lead for H&I/Diagnostic Services
SNBTS

Ann-Margaret Little

Director of Histocompatibility &
Immunogenetics Laboratory
NHS GGC

Tissue Donation Update December 2019

1. Deceased Tissue Donation

Since the last update the HTA has approved the Preparation Process Dossiers for both heart valve and tendon processing, with SNBTS Tissues, Cells and Advanced Therapeutics restarting processing of these products as of the second week of October 2019. At the point of writing, over the last 5 weeks since going live with deceased tissue processing SNBTS has progressed 5 heart valve donors.

SNBTS also finalised the discussions with NHSBT *vis a vis* eye retrieval from deceased donors. The agreement is for SNBTS to take on the responsibility of eye retrieval from suitable donors who die in the central belt of Scotland in the new financial year, once new staff have been recruited and trained in eye retrieval. This will lead to a more reliable retrieval capacity for eye donation in Scotland.

SNBTS also continues to actively collaborate with NHSBT and Scottish Government on the changes required once Deemed Authorisation becomes law in Scotland.

2. Pancreatic Islet Programme

The SNBTS islet isolation laboratory went back to 24/7 islet processing on weekdays as of the beginning of October 2019. This programme continues to provide a life-saving service to Scottish patients. In the first seven and a half months of this financial year (up to mid-November 2019), 14 pancreata were processed by SNBTS, of which 10 (71%) yielded a successful transplantable product, leading to a transplant on 5 occasions (product conversion to transplant being dependent on intended recipient characteristics).

Dr Sharon Zahra
Clinical Lead, TCAT, SNBTS

Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 18 December 2019**NHSBT Report for SDTG – 18 December 2019****1. UK Organ Donation and Transplantation beyond 2020**

- The development of the ten-year Organ Donation & Transplantation Strategy continues. A comprehensive programme of engagement and focused events took place throughout the UK in September to November, including the event in Scotland in October. As a result, around 4,000 comments, questions and ideas were gained that help inform whether the aims of the proposed Strategy are right; how the aims can best be delivered and how progress should be measured.
- These data items have been distilled into six main themes: Diversity & Inclusion, Living & Deceased Donation, Living Donor, Recipient and Transplant Outcomes, Organ Quality (New Technologies & Techniques), Service Sustainability and Responsiveness, and Research & Innovation.
- It is intended that the first draft of the new strategy will be written by January 2020 and will then have wide consultation.

2. Meeting with Joe Fitzpatrick MSP

- Millie Banerjee (chair), Betsy Bassis (CEO) and Keith Rigg met with the Minister, Joe FitzPatrick MSP on 27 November and he was supported by Sam Baker, Sharon Grant and John Casey. A productive discussion ensued, and topics included progress of implementation of Deemed Authorisation legislation, Organ Donation and Transplant strategy, Normothermic Regional Perfusion, and Transplantation from Organ Donors who are hepatitis C positive.

3. NHSBT Changes

- Looking forwards, NHSBT is operating in a rapidly changing external environment, from evolving clinical practice and new technologies to changing demographic and consumer trends. This has been a driver to a number of significant changes being made within the organisation which include a review of the Operating Model, Governance framework and Strategic Risks.
- As part of the Governance review it has been agreed with the devolved administrations that the National Administrations Committee should be dissolved and that the interests of all four countries will continue to be represented by both representation on the Board and providing continued support of nominated Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) with special responsibility for each country.
- Three NEDs come to the end of their terms of office on 29 February 2020 and the recruitment process is underway. As a result, this will be my last SDTG meeting and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being part of the group over the last decade initially representing the HTA and latterly NHSBT. You have achieved much in that time and I have always been impressed by the commitment, enthusiasm and partnership working of all those involved in the journey towards excellence in organ donation and transplantation in Scotland.

Keith Rigg

Non-Executive Director - NHSBT

Human Tissue Authority

Human Tissue Authority (HTA) Transplant Advisory Group

The HTA's Transplant Advisory Group meets twice yearly. The last meeting was on 23 October 2019.

Living Donation

- We are continuing with our project looking at the sustainability of the Independent Assessor (IA) framework across the UK. This is to try to strengthen some areas such as training and information we provide about the role. On course for completion end of March 2020.
- The next training day for IAs will be 7 April 2020, which has been communicated to all transplant centres and published on the HTA website. Additional training has been added online via the HTA secure portal that all IAs can access as a refresher.
- A Code of Conduct has been circulated to all IAs with a request that they sign and return to HTA by 31 December.

Deceased Donation

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019

- The Act places a duty on the HTA to provide guidance about how deemed consent in England will work in practice, including the information a person in a qualifying relationship would need to provide as evidence that the deceased person would not have agreed to their organs being donated.
- A 12 week consultation on Code of Practice F ran from 4 July 2019 until 26 September 2019. The Code has been significantly revised as a result of feedback. It has been signed off by the Authority (Board) and is due to go to Ministers for clearance in early January 2020, with a view to being laid in Parliament at the start of February 2020.
- The public version of the Code is due to be signed off by the Authority at its February 2020 meeting.
- Minor amends to Code A and the Welsh Code have been agreed with relevant colleagues. Code A will be laid in Parliament along with Code F.

Scottish Donation and Transplant Group – 18 December 2019



Living Donation Scotland: Project Update: SDTG 18th December 2019

The Living Donation Scotland Board met in September 2019. Much discussion was focussed on the forthcoming strategies and implementation plans. Agreement was reached to continue the work with electronic capture of transplant decision making and living donation education on renal unit systems. Further expansion of Renal Education and Choices at Home (REACH), which is being piloted by NHS Lothian should be facilitated. Continued multi-media engagement is to be incorporated alongside healthcare professional education.

Timely Transplantation: Dr Geddes presented the electronic record of transplant decision survey results at the Scottish Renal Association meeting in October. Almost 1000 patients who are approaching the requirement for renal replacement therapy were identified and varied incidence of recording discussed. Dr Geddes is taking this forward at the link nephrologist meeting on 6th December 2019 to agree standard criteria with the plan for national collection.

Patient Groups: Work is continuing with patient groups to address the expectations of increased organ availability following change in legislation for opt-out next year. A meeting with key kidney charities in Scotland is arranged for 12th Dec to ensure consistent messaging surrounding deceased and living donor transplantation is achieved.

Equity of Access: The link nephrology and nurse meeting is to have an equity of access focus to identify strategies to overcome ongoing access issues to living donor transplantation. Keeping healthcare professionals updated and exploring novel forms of communication have been identified as key areas.

Healthcheck Questionnaire Returns Nov 18- Nov 19 (Glasgow & Edinburgh Tx Units)

