

May 2019

Dear B Brown and Dr Mainprize,

2018/19 was another record year for organ donation in the UK with 1600 patients donating organs following their death. Every donation is a reflection of the altruism of the patient and their family and testament to the care and professionalism of colleagues across the NHS who facilitate this complex and lifesaving process. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues within your organisation for their dedication and commitment in achieving this number of organ donors, without which it would not have been possible.

This letter explains how your Trust contributed to the UK's success, as well as highlighting ways to maximise donation opportunities. Colleagues in England may also find the activity data provided helpful for Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections. With the passing of Max and Keira's Law on the 15th March 2019, resulting in the introduction of deemed consent in Spring 2020, we hope donation numbers will continue to increase and the lifesaving gift of organ donation will benefit many more lives.

Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020: Trust Performance - 2018/19

From 6 consented donors, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust facilitated 5 actual solid organ donors resulting in 9 patients receiving a transplant during the time period. This is in comparison to 2017/18 when your Trust facilitated one actual solid organ donor from one consented donor.

Quality of care in organ donation - 2018/19

- The referral of potential organ donors to NHS Blood and Transplant's Organ Donation Service and the presence of a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation when approaching families to discuss organ donation are key metrics that are monitored throughout UK hospitals.
- Your Trust referred 18 patients to NHSBT's Organ Donation Services Team; 14 met the referral criteria and were included in the UK Potential Donor Audit. There was a further 1 audited patient that was not referred.
- A Specialist Nurse was present for 6 organ donation discussions with families of eligible donors. There were no occasions when a Specialist Nurse was absent for the donation discussion.
- There was 1 (5%) missed opportunity to follow best practice out of 21 during the time period, compared with 2 (18%) out of 11 in 2017/18.

For various reasons it may not always be possible to follow best practice; if there was an occasion when best practice was not followed your Organ Donation Committee Chair or Clinical Lead for Organ Donation will be able to explain the circumstances. For further information on best practice in organ donation see NICE Clinical Guidance 135.

What we would like you to do

- Ensure your Trust supports your Organ Donation Committee and Clinical Lead for Organ Donation in promoting best practice as they seek to minimise missed donation opportunities.
- Discuss activity and performance data at the Board with support from your Organ Donation Committee Chair and Clinical Lead for Organ Donation.

Why it matters

In 2018/19, 296 people benefited from a solid organ transplant in Yorkshire And The Humber. However, 40 people died on the transplant waiting list during this time and 467 people were still waiting as of the 31 March 2019.

Thank you for your ongoing support for organ donation and transplantation.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Clarkson
Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation
NHS Blood and Transplant