ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SCOTLAND

HOW ARE WE DOING?

REPORT 2016/2017
Since 2013/14 there has been a 23% increase in the number of DBD referrals. 2016/17 saw the highest ever number of DBD referrals to the donation service; however, 4 potential DBD donors were not referred to the service.

Although DCD referrals have increased over the last 4 year period, the number of referrals actually fell by 32 last year. 31 potential DCD donors were not referred to the service. The decrease in referrals can also be partly attributed to patients with catastrophic brain injuries progressing to a death diagnosis through neurological criteria and a reduction in patients who met referral criteria.

The NHS Organ Donor Register must always be checked by a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation prior to approaching a family about donation.

Acceptance criteria for organs changes frequently and can depend on how sick someone is on the transplant waiting list. If in doubt as to whether to refer a patient, contact the Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation on 07659 594979.

More families than ever before were approached and went on to authorise donation, meaning more organs became available for transplant.

The combined authorisation rate for DCD and DBD increased to 63.2%.

This is the highest it has been since records began; however it is far short of the ambitious target Scotland has set to increase authorisation rates from 78% to 85% (DBD) and from 53% to 80% (DCD) by 2020.

Unless there is a revolution in attitudes to organ donation, people on the transplant waiting lists will continue to die. Last year 10 families overturned their loved one’s decisions to donate. That’s why it’s vital families discuss organ donation and make their decision known so that it can be honoured in the event of their death.
• Only around 1% of all deaths in Scotland occur in circumstances that allow deceased organ donation to proceed.

• Since 2013/14, the number of people donating their organs after death has risen by 25%.

• One deceased donor can help save the lives of up to 7 people and save or enhance the lives of many more through tissue donation.

• In 2016/17, 15 living people in Scotland donated a kidney to a stranger (altruistic donation).

• The number of living donors has remained relatively static over the last 4 years.

• For more information on living donation visit www.livingdonationscotland.org.

• Around 530 people in Scotland are currently waiting for a transplant. The majority of them are waiting for a kidney transplant;

• Just under 2.4 million people in Scotland have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register giving hope to those who are waiting for a transplant;

• In 2016/17 348 people in Scotland received a transplant:
  • 246 received a kidney transplant. This means they no longer have to attend hospital for dialysis three times per week or undertake another form of renal replacement therapy;
  • 116 – the highest ever number – received a liver transplant;
  • 18 received a kidney and pancreas transplant;
  • 16 received a heart transplant;
  • 16 received a lung transplant; and
  • 16 received islet cell transplants.

• Half of all kidney transplants now come from living kidney donors. This is great news because living donor transplants lead to better results for patients.
Tissue donation after death includes the potential of donating life-saving heart valves and skin, and life-enhancing tendons and corneas.

The number of Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) tissue donors increased in 2016/17 to the best ever tissue donation rate in Scotland; a 43% increase in tendon donations and a 30% increase in heart valve donations compared to 2015/16.

There is always a Tissue Donor Co-ordinator on call in Scotland; they are happy to provide donation advice to Healthcare Professionals. They can be contacted 24/7 on 07659 107029.

Tissue donors may be tissue-only donors, or they may have also donated organs. As tissue donation can take place up to 48 hours after death, tissue donation may be possible in some patients where organ donation is not.

Following a previous year on year drop in tissue donor numbers, the number of tissue donors has increased in the last two financial years, with a 67% increase in tissue donor numbers in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16.

64% of SNBTS tissue donors were also organ donors in 2016/17.

Despite this very significant increase in tissue donation, there is still an unmet clinical demand for heart valves and occasionally tendons.

In addition, in 2016/17 141 people in Scotland donated their eyes, some of whom also donated organs or other tissue.