

Minutes of Transplantation Advisory Group

Date 17 March 2015
Venue Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

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Present

Members

Allan Marriott-Smith (Chair), Director of Strategy and Quality

Gurch Randhawa, Authority Member

Sam Abdalla, Authority Member

Amanda Gibbon, Authority Member

Catharine Seddon, Authority Member

Lisa Burnapp, Lead Nurse, Living Organ Donation, NHSBT

Keith Rigg, Consultant Transplant Surgeon

Jessica Porter, Living Donation Manager

Katy Tinker (Secretary), Living Donation Officer

Observers

Rachel Noble, Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy

Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Anthony Warrens and Michael Heneghan.
2. A warm welcome was extended to the new Authority members joining TAG and Rachel Noble who attended the meeting as an observer.

Item 2 – Minutes from 13 May 2014 Meeting

3. The minutes from the 13 May 2014 meeting were agreed.
4. All actions from the previous minutes have been completed.
5. Lisa Burnapp updated the Group on the progress of the guidance on prisoners becoming living organ donors. The guidance is with the British Transplantation Society for sign off and it will then be published.

Item 3 – Chair's update

6. Allan Marriott-Smith updated the Group on a number of issues arising from the quarter 3 Living Donation Activity Report (LDAR).
7. Allan Marriott-Smith informed the Group of an Independent Assessor training day that took place in Manchester in February 2015. 11 new Independent Assessors were trained and accredited.
8. Jessica Porter updated the Group on the reaccreditation of Independent Assessors. Out of 128 Independent Assessors, 118 have been reaccredited, seven have stepped down from the role, two did not complete the refresher package and one did not pass the refresher package; they have not been reaccredited.
9. The Group discussed options to further expand the Independent Assessor pool. It was suggested the HTA write to the CEO of Trusts that struggle to recruit Independent Assessors. Another suggestion was to contact Trusts that do well with recruitment and share it as good practice guidance.
10. Allan Marriott-Smith informed the Group of a project to update the policy and guidance for the bone marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) sector. Allan Marriott-Smith also informed the Group of a case that the HTA are expecting of an adult lacking capacity in Scotland potentially donating PBSC. This case would require a panel decision and it is expected that the panel will be made up predominantly of TAG Authority Members.

Item 4 – Amendments to NHS Blood and Transplant Matching run

11. Lisa Burnapp detailed the changes to the NHSBT matching run. The following changes will be put in place for the next (April) matching run:
 - An increase in the length of Altruistic donor chains to include 2 pairs.
 - A more flexible approach to the simultaneous nature of the surgeries within the defined period summarised below. However, the aim is to only

stagger surgeries that can't take place simultaneously in order to prevent unnecessary delays for matched donors and recipients

- A 2 week period within 8 weeks of the matching run where all identified transplants will take place. This will help to encourage more non-directed altruistic donors to enter a chain by ensuring a more defined time period for their donation.

12. Lisa Burnapp explained that NHSBT is considering running more frequent matching runs at the request of clinical colleagues; however it has been put on hold for this year whilst statistical modelling is performed to assess the impact of such a change. The focus for this year will be to embed the changes to the altruistic donor chains and the frequency of matching runs will be reconsidered for 2016.

Item 5 – Social media issues

13. Jessica Porter updated the Group on a number of enquiries the Living Donation Assessment Team have received recently from Transplant Units on how to manage the influx of calls from potential donors once a patient shares their story or seeks a donors using social media sites.

Action

1. **Lisa Burnapp to work with units and look at extending the existing guidance to agree and share best practice for these circumstances.**

Item 6 – Revised Guidance to transplant teams and Independent Assessors – What's new?

14. Jessica Porter outlined to the Group the additions and updates to the revised guidance to transplant teams and Independent Assessors. The guidance is expected to be published towards the end of March 2015.

15. TAG members noted the changes to the Guidance document.

Action

2. **Executive to request renal and liver transplant clinician details from NHSBT for distribution of updated Guidance.**

Item 7 – Codes of Practice and Standards Project update

16. Allan Marriott-Smith introduced the paper to the Group and outlined the project timeline. The Group were assured they would be kept updated on the project.

17. The Group noted the paper.

Item 8 – Trafficking – the broad issues

18. Allan Marriott-Smith introduced the paper on trafficking and asked the Group to consider and discuss whether the HTA can do, or should do more to help prevent people trafficking for the purpose of organ transplantation.

19. The Group discussed the definition of trafficking and the recent Home Office guidance on donors coming from abroad for the purposes of organ donation.

20. The Group agreed with the course of action the HTA is taking by developing guidance and sharing knowledge with the transplant sector.

Action

3. Catharine Seddon to consider taking an item on the risk of HTA handling of trafficking to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC)

Item 9 – Any Other Business

21. Jessica Porter noted that the HTA had recently provided a response to the consultation on the NICE liver guidelines.

22. Lisa Burnapp asked the Group to provide any feedback on British Transplantation Society living liver guidelines which are currently in their final draft before being released for consultation.