

Important information about the status of transplant activity in the Edinburgh Transplant Centre

The Covid-19 pandemic is stretching the resources of the NHS and this has also had a significant impact on transplant activity. In addition patients who are immunosuppressed are at a higher risk of acquiring the virus and therefore consideration to transplant must include the risks and benefits of transplantation, but also the additional risk of acquiring the infection at a time when the body is most susceptible to infection due to the anti-rejection medication.

After careful consideration over the last few days we have decided to impose restrictions on the transplant programmes and I am writing to inform you about the current situation with transplant activity in the Edinburgh Transplant Centre.

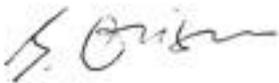
- The living donor programme throughout the UK has been suspended based on a balance of risk and benefit in the current climate.
- We have also reduced the deceased donor kidney transplant activity and we will only undertake kidney transplantation in the coming weeks for a selective group of patients who are at a low risk of acquiring infection and who do not need increased immunosuppressive therapy immediately following the transplant.
- The simultaneous pancreas-kidney (SPK) programme and the Islet transplant programme have temporarily been suspended.
- The liver transplant programme continues for the moment

Any decision to offer transplantation will be taken after careful consideration of the current situation in the Edinburgh Transplant Centre and in discussion with patients to ensure that the additional risks are acceptable. Over the coming days, activity will depend on the availability of intensive care resources, operating theatres, anaesthetic support and most importantly patients safety.

We have not taken these decision lightly and I apologise for any upset that this news may cause you. However your safety and well being are the most important thing at the moment and I would urge you to stay safe, self isolate at home and rigorously follow the guidance on the NHS informed website (www.nhsinform.scot) where you will find up to date information about the advice you need to follow. Additional information will be found on our website (www.edinburghtransplant.org) where we will provide up to date information about advice for you and the status of the programme.

I sincerely hope that these changes are short lived and we will continue to monitor the situation and hopefully restore the programmes to full activity as soon as it is safe to do so.

Many thanks for your understanding and in the mean time I wish you all to stay safe.



Gabriel Oniscu
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