

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 following programmes have been temporarily suspended:

- The living donor kidney transplant programme
- The deceased donor kidney transplant programme
- The simultaneous pancreas-kidney (SPK) programme and the Islet transplant programme

The liver transplant programme has been restricted to a highly selected group of patients who are very high urgency and are at a significant risk of falling off the list within three months.

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.



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