

# COVID 19 – information for CLODs

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**Advice 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

This is an ever-evolving situation and may alter. Please check [www.odt.nhs.uk](http://www.odt.nhs.uk)

## General Principles

1. Organ donation and transplantation is an essential NHS service which saves lives – it will only be ceased as a last resort.
2. It is worth noting we have heard that Milan carried out two heart transplants last week – they took things case by case, as should we.
3. SNODs/SRs are part of this essential NHS service; please ensure that this is remembered by colleagues and nursing staff. No SNOD/SR should be limited in access to the ED / ICU or elsewhere just because of their role.
4. There may be individual case by case scenarios where ICU / Theatre capacity does not allow donation or retrieval to proceed safely.
  - Please encourage your colleagues to have sensible discussions with the SNOD / Regional Team about options and not have a ‘knee jerk’ reaction.
  - If donation cannot go ahead, please DATIX as a case of patient harm due to lack of resources and ensure the situation was explained to the potential donor’s family.
5. Please support your local SNOD/SR gaining access to fit testing for PPE in your ICU. While there is currently no plan for them to facilitate donation from patients with confirmed or suspected COVID 19 (see below), if the situation changes or deteriorates, they may have to support your nursing staff in clinical duties.
6. SNOD/SRs are trying to limit unnecessary movement e.g. going from ICU to ICU and hospital to hospital for non-essential activity. This may limit some planned activities. Please support them in this.
7. We understand the increasing demands many of you and your ICUs are under. We appreciate everything you are doing.

## NHSBT Education and Meetings

1. We have decided to cancel the March Deemed Consent English Roadshows (No decision has been made regarding the April / May Roadshows.)
  - This decision was made to support hospitals in maintaining essential services and not wanting to divert ICU staff from their priorities at the moment. We are less concerned about infection spread (there has been no government directive preventing education and meetings) but we acknowledge that ICU staff are critical to the care of potentially infected patients and planning for this care.

- We will run the events in March via half-day sessions using the Zoom online platform.
2. No decision regarding events like Order of St John Award Ceremonies beginning in April has been made. These are of a different nature, and more akin to public gatherings where there is no government advice yet preventing.

## Facilitating Organ Donation

In keeping with national guidance, we have identified the following categories for COVID 19:

1. **Confirmed COVID 19 positive**

- Make the referral as normal but donation will not go ahead.

2. **Possible COVID 19** - individuals who fulfil criteria as per UK government definition.

- Make the referral as normal but donation will not be further explored until negative result.

3. **Above do not apply** - no testing being carried out.

- Donation can and should be explored and proceed as normal, ICU/theatre capacity allowing.

**Invariably the simple rules above are easier to write than apply in practice.**

**Please can you ensure your Regional Team have your mobile number. We additionally ask that you accept a more direct role for any donation occurring in your hospital/s.**

e.g. have an awareness of any donation occurring, maintain knowledge (or know who to ask) of any patients being tested for or confirmed with COVID 19 on your unit and how this might affect donation.

It may be NHSBT's regional/national team (including Dr Ushiro-Lumb NHSBT's virologist) may need to contact you and make a case by case decision. Your effort will help ensure donation can proceed in a safe and timely manner.

Thank you

Dr Dale Gardiner

National CLOD and with the support of the other National and Regional CLODs