

# London Transplant Collaborative

**This leaflet explains more about the London Transplant Collaborative. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.**

## What is the London Transplant Collaborative?

There are five kidney transplant centres across London (Guy's, Hammersmith, The Royal Free, The Royal London, and St George's Hospitals). These centres have agreed to form a collaborative in order to deal with situations where individual centres have more transplants than they can manage. The centres will collaborate with each other to ensure that the maximum possible number of transplants is done. This arrangement already exists between Oxford and Coventry hospitals.

## Why is it needed?

Over the last few years we have been very successful in the UK at significantly increasing the number of deceased donor kidney transplants. However, this has meant that there are occasions when several transplants need to be done at the same time in the same centre. It is not practical to postpone a transplant, and a patient could miss out on a transplant if the wait is too long.

In order to avoid this situation occurring in the future, all London centres have agreed that the kidney and the patient will be transferred to one of the other centres in London if their own centre is unable to perform the transplant quickly enough. This does not happen very often.

## Who will be transferred?

You will be asked if you are happy to be transferred to a different centre. If you are expected to have a difficult or complex operation you will not be asked to transfer.

## Will I have a choice?

Yes. You do not have to agree to be transferred. The doctor at your hospital will discuss these issues with you at the time if a transfer is being offered to you.

## What are the risks of being transferred?

- The centre you are being transferred to may suddenly lose access to emergency theatres and you may not be able to receive the kidney transplant.
- The new team looking after you will be less familiar with your medical issues, but we will ensure that your medical records are transferred and available to the transplant centre.
- Transferring to a different hospital can be stressful and may be upsetting.

## What are the benefits of being transferred?

- It will reduce the likelihood of a transplant being delayed or cancelled.
- It can lead to more transplants being completed.
- It is also likely that the operation will take place more quickly. This means that your new kidney may function more quickly after your transplant and it will also increase the chances that it will function in the long term.

## Will my follow-up be at my original or new centre?

The transfer is only for your transplant operation and your inpatient stay. Once you are discharged from hospital, you will return to the clinic at your original centre and any issues will be managed there.

## Will the centre I am transferred to have access to my records?

Yes. We will transfer medical letters, the tests you have had for your assessment for transplant and any relevant X-rays. A consultant surgeon at your original centre will discuss your case directly with a consultant surgeon at the centre to which you are being transferred.

### Contact us

If you have any questions, you can talk to your consultant nephrologist (kidney doctor) or surgeon, or your transplant coordinator.

Most patients will be asked for their views on possible transfer in advance, but if this has not been possible we may ask you on admission to hospital at the time of your transplant.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [w: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets).

### Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

**t:** 020 7188 8748, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

### Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

**t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS)      **e:** [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)

**t:** 020 7188 3514 (complaints)      **e:** [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

**t:** 020 7188 8815      **e:** [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day

**t:** 111      **w:** [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

**Leaflet number: 4920/VER1**

Date published: March 2020

Review date: March 2023

© 2020 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

A list of sources is available on request