

NHS BLOOD & TRANSPLANT

MEDIAN WAITING TIME TO KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

The length of time a patient waits for a kidney transplant varies across the UK. The median waiting time for deceased donor kidney transplantation is shown here for patients registered at each individual unit. Local allocation arrangements are in place for DCD kidneys while DBD kidneys allocated via the National Kidney Allocation Scheme. The allocation scheme favours younger patients, who therefore tend to wait a shorter period of time. For that reason, adult and paediatric patient data are presented separately – paediatric patients are those we have defined to be aged less than 18 years on the day they are listed for transplant. The data shown in Tables 1 and 2 are for all adult and paediatric patients, respectively, joining the list within the time period shown, including those still awaiting a transplant on the day of analysis. Patients who received a live donor or multi-organ transplant are not included. The national allocation scheme introduced in April 2006 is slowly reducing the variability in deceased donor kidney waiting times across the country but currently some variability remains. Waiting times across centres continue to differ in a way that it is difficult for centres to control, given that the National Kidney Allocation Scheme determines allocation of all kidneys available for transplant from donors after brain death (DBD).

National Kidney Allocation Scheme

Only kidneys from donors after brain death are allocated via the national allocation scheme. Kidneys from donations after circulatory death (DCD) are allocated to patients through local allocation arrangements and these vary across the country because some centres have a larger DCD programme than others. Kidneys from DBD are allocated to patients listed nationally through the Kidney Allocation Scheme. The Kidney Allocation Scheme introduced in April 2006 prioritises patients with ideal tissue matches (000 HLA mismatches) and then assigns points to patients based on the level of tissue match between donor and recipient, the length of time spent waiting for a transplant, age of the recipient (with a progressive reduction in points given after the age of thirty) and location points such that patients geographically close to the retrieval centre receive more points. The patients with the highest number of points for a donated kidney are preferentially offered the kidney, no matter where in the UK they receive their treatment.

Table 1 Median waiting time to deceased donor transplant for adult patients registered on the kidney transplant list, 2006-2009

Centre	Total patients	Median wait (days)	95% CI
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	469	784	728-840
Belfast City Hospital, Belfast ¹	244	1651	1380-1922
Churchill Hospital, Oxford	421	1018	944-1092
Derriford Hospital, Plymouth	257	632	559-705
Freeman Hospital, Newcastle	393	822	679-965
Guy's Hospital, London	506	1233	1126-1340
Leicester General Hospital, Leicester	431	1928	1710-2146
Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester	649	1300	1210-1390
Northern General Hospital, Sheffield	258	1382	1155-1609
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	279	1198	1063-1333
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth	341	1175	1038-1312
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham	704	1845	1710-1980
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Edinburgh	313	1224	1100-1348
Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool	346	961	857-1065
Southmead Hospital, Bristol	445	1230	1160-1300
St George's Hospital, London	414	1505	1376-1634
St James's University Hospital, Leeds	544	941	872-1010
The Royal Free Hospital, London	348	1091	966-1216
The Royal London Hospital, London	359	1035	924-1146
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff	378	922	857-987
Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry	126	1479	1273-1685
West London Renal and Transplant Centre	641	1413	1270-1556
Western Infirmary, Glasgow	372	1262	1155-1369
UK	9188	1197	1170-1224

¹ The median estimate could not be obtained based on data between 2006 and 2009, since in follow-up data to 20/02/12 less than 50% of patients registered had received their transplant. This estimate is therefore based on patients listed between 2005 and 2008.

Table 2 Median waiting time to deceased donor transplant for paediatric patients registered on the kidney transplant list, 2006-2009

Centre	Total patients	Median wait (days)	95% CI
Belfast	16	318	0-642
Birmingham	40	572	491-653
Bristol	34	228	56-400
Glasgow	24	192	76-308
Leeds	53	266	176-356
London, Great Ormond Street Hospital	42	388	238-538
London, Guy's Hospital	25	410	242-578
Manchester	20	364	163-565
Newcastle	8	215	28-402
Nottingham	48	354	118-590
UK	344	350	280-420