

SCOTTISH DONATION AND TRANSPLANT GROUP (SDTG)

Thursday 19 August 2021, 14:00-16:00

Tissue Donation Update

Submitted by Jessica Porter, Head of Regulation, Human Tissue Authority (HTA)

Audits

- We are continuing to carry out Virtual Regulatory Assessments (VRAs). The next schedule of audits for hospitals licensed by the HTA for Organ Donation and Transplantation has begun and will include a VRA and a targeted site visit.

Living Donation

- We continue to see a gradual increase in the levels of applications for living donations across the UK.
- We are currently planning a further training event for units looking to recruit additional Independent Assessors (IAs). Further details as to when this event will be held will be sent out via the HTA Living Donation Newsletter in due course.
- In May 2020, we approved the use of virtual technology for independent assessments in circumstances where face-to-face interviews may not be possible or appropriate. In May 2021, we conducted a survey where transplant units and Independent Assessors were invited to provide their feedback on virtual interviews vs face to face. We received a diverse range of responses in terms of preferences and the challenges experienced by IAs and transplant units. However, the results did show that both transplant units and IAs appreciate having the option to conduct virtual assessments if needed.
- On this basis, the HTA continues to support both approaches. This enables individual transplant units and IAs to work together to decide what works best for donors, recipients and the IAs in terms of conducting the interviews. We will be including this information in our guidance document for transplant teams and Independent Assessors in Scotland which is currently being updated.

New website

- We have recently launched our new [beta website](#). Pages are still being added and improved. The previous website has been archived but can still be accessed