

Date 11/12/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10840

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TRANSPLANT AND COVID-19

I write in response to your request for information in relation to transplant and Covid-19 guidelines.

Question:

- Did NHS Lothian implement the British Transplantation Society COVID 19 Guidelines (Guidance on the management of transplant recipients diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID 19) first published in the spring (24th April) of 2020? If so, what date was the guidance implemented?

Answer:

The document "Guidance on the management of transplant recipients diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID 19" was first released in March 2020 and was a joint British Transplant Society/Renal Association document. This was shared with the Transplant Unit for information. See enclosed. Updated guidance was available on 17/04/20 (again enclosed).

Policy, procedures and guidelines within the transplant unit and NHS Lothian was primarily derived from policy and guidance from Scottish Government Health Directorate, NHS Scotland, Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland (ARHAI), NICE and NHSBT. Guidance from professional representative organisations was available to staff but was not in itself implemented as policy; much of the professional guidance was consistent guidance from Government and NHS organisations.

In keeping with the primacy of Government and NHS guidance the BTS website now states "The current advice is changing daily and professionals are advised to refer to NHS and government resources for the most up to date advice." [COVID-19 Information - British Transplantation Society](#).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive
Enc.

From: British Transplantation Society <secretariat@bts.org.uk>

Date: 26 March 2020 at 17:55:22 GMT

To: British Transplantation Society <secretariat@bts.org.uk>

Subject: **BTS Website Member update - Covid-19 information**

Dear Colleagues,

We have created a new information site on the www.bts.org.uk website, which can be accessed from the banner on the home page or via this link at: <https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/>

We will aim to update this weekly with relevant updates, advice and guidance documents.

With particular thanks to Gareth Jones and Chris Callaghan, new publications include:

- Guidance on the management of transplant recipients diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID19 (jointly with Renal Association)
- Guidance on consent for solid organ transplantation in adults in the context of the COVID19 pandemic (jointly with NHSBT).

With reference to the guidance on consent, BTS and NHSBT have provided this guidance for clinicians on consent for solid organ transplantation in adults in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are aware that some programmes have closed and that others may need to close in the coming weeks. In the meantime we hope that this guidance will be useful and may continue to have relevance when programmes re-open in the future.

With the help of Maria Ibrahim, we are also adding a repository for emerging evidence on COVID19 for solid organ transplants to this part of the website too, which will be live very soon. This is in the early stage of development and we plan to add to it in the next few weeks so that it is a really useful resource for the community.

Please do let us know if there is anything you wish us to add to these pages which would help to support you in your clinical practice.

Kind regards,

Guidance on the management of transplant recipients diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID19 guidance on the

BTS Vice President

British Transplantation Society (BTS)

Registered Office:

Chester House

68 Chestergate

Macclesfield

SK11 6DY

e-mail: secretariat@bts.org.uk web: www.bts.org.uk

Dear Colleagues,

The latest communications and information updates about COVID-19 are available at <https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/>, including:

• Updated Management guidance for transplant recipients can be found [here](#)

• Updated Clinical - management of transplants and immunosuppression can be found [here](#)

Also just a reminder that BTS and NHSBT invite you to attend a webinar to provide an update on COVID-19 in the transplant community.

BTS & NHSBT Webinar COVID-19 Update

Managing transplant patients with COVID-19

Date: Thursday 23rd April 2020

Time: 13:00 - 14:00

[Click here to register](#)

Let us know if there is anything else that the BTS can do to support you in these difficult times.

With kind regards,

BTS Vice President

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e-mail: secretariat@bts.org.uk web: www.bts.org.uk