

Policy for National Review of Patients Declined Access to the Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation List

Background

Each transplant centre is responsible for assessing potential kidney recipients referred for assessment. The Clinical Director of the relevant Renal/Nephrology Department at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch (hereafter “Clinical Director”) must agree that potential recipients meet the agreed national criteria for listing on the NZ Deceased Donor waiting list. This includes medical suitability to undergo transplantation, and expectation of sufficiently good outcome to justify the use of the scarce resource (utility concerns). Potential recipients are referred by their nephrologist to the transplant centre that provides transplant services for patients based on their place of residence.

Assessment includes multidisciplinary assessment and testing, as defined by transplant centres.

A decision to decline an assessed patient’s access to the deceased donor list is made after discussion with the referring nephrologist.

Individual transplant centres review potential recipients who are active on the list, either periodically or following a change in their health status. Referring nephrologists notify transplant centres of any change in the health status of potential recipients. Patients who do not continue to meet the agreed criteria for listing will be removed from the waiting list (either temporarily or permanently depending on the nature of the health status change).

Grounds for review

A referring nephrologist may feel that the decision of the transplant centre to decline access to or remove a patient from the list is inequitable or inconsistent with criteria. Where further discussion between the transplant centre and the referring nephrologist and/or additional assessments as agreed are unable to resolve the disagreement, the Clinical Director will refer the potential recipient to the National Renal Transplant Leadership Team for review.

Where a patient disagrees with the decision, but the decision is accepted by the referring nephrologist, the referring nephrologist should endeavour to explain the reasoning to the patient. If the patient is not satisfied, the patient should be offered a second opinion by a referring nephrologist who may elect to re-refer the patient to the transplant centre for consideration if they disagree with the decision not to list the patient.

Policy for National Review of Patients Declined Access to the Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation List	Date created: 30 April 2015
Approved by: National Renal Transplant Leadership Team	Version: FINAL

Review Process

All documents associated with the assessment shall be provided to the Clinical Director, National Renal Transplant Service (Chair of NRTLTL). The case will be considered by the next available teleconference of the NZ Kidney Exchange (NZKE) acceptance subcommittee of the NRTLTL. Where there is urgency or significant delay until the next available meeting, the referring Clinical Director may request a separate teleconference.

The NZKE subcommittee consists of one nephrologist from each transplant centre, one transplant surgeon and the NZKE coordinator. The referring nephrologist will be invited to attend the teleconference for the discussion of their patient. The committee members should review case documentation independently prior to meeting

The referring nephrologist and representative of the Transplant Service which has declined the patient will present the case at the meeting. A decision as to the patient's eligibility will be reached by consensus.

There are three potential outcomes from the review:

- 1) Patient is deemed eligible for the deceased donor waiting list. The potential recipient will be activated on the waiting list.
- 2) Patient is deemed permanently ineligible for the deceased donor waiting list. No further consideration of the patient is required.
- 3) Patient is deemed conditionally eligible, pending resolution of a health issue and/or additional testing (after which NZKE subcommittee may be required to consider again).

The Chair of the NZKE subcommittee, or the NZKE coordinator, will convey the decision and the reasons for the decision in writing to the referring nephrologist and the Clinical Director of the relevant Transplant Service. A copy will be sent to the Clinical Director, National Renal Transplant Service. The referring nephrologist and/or transplant centre nephrologist will discuss the decision with the patient.

Patients rights to address complaints about their healthcare including decisions about the deceased donor waiting list via usual channels (individual DHB complaints processes, Health and Disability Commissioner, etc) are unaffected by this process.

Policy for National Review of Patients Declined Access to the Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation List	Date created: 30 April 2015
Approved by: National Renal Transplant Leadership Team	Version: FINAL