**Minutes**

**National Renal Transplant Leadership Team**

**Strategic Group Meeting**

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| **Date:** | 3 December 2021 | | | | |
| **Time:** | 1.00 – 3.00pm | | | | |
| **Location:** | Zoom | | | | |
| **Chair:** | | Nick Cross | CD National Renal Transplant Service | CDHB |
| **Attended:** | | Andy McNally | Nephrologist | HBDHB |
|  | | Alex Burton | Principal Advisor National Services | MOH |
|  | | Claire Beckett | Transplant coordinator | CCDHB |
|  | | Chanel Prestidge | Paediatric Nephrologist | ADHB  Starship Hospital |
|  | | Denise Beechey | Renal CNS | CMDHB |
|  | | Drew Henderson | Nephrologist, | WDHB |
|  | | Heather Dunckley | Clinical Scientist  New Zealand Blood Service | Auckland |
|  | | Jane Presto | Operations manager | CCDHB |
|  | | Janice Langlands | Donor Coordinator  Organ Donation New Zealand | Auckland |
|  | | Jo Brown | Funding and Development Manager  Hospitals | ADHB |
|  | | John Irvine | Renal physician | CDHB |
|  | | John Kearns | Consumer representative | Auckland |
|  | | John Schollum | Renal physician | SDHB |
|  | | Justin Roake | Transplant surgeon | CDHB |
|  | | Karen Macleod | Consumer representative | Dunedin |
|  | | Kristin Wilson | Business manager LTU | ADHB |
|  | | Paul Manley | Transplant Physician, | ADHB |
|  | | Richard Evans | Transplant surgeon | CCDHB |
|  | | Colette Meehan | Administrator (minutes) | CDHB |
| **Guests:** | | Helen Pilmore | TSANZ President  (Standing arrangement for Strategic Group meetings.) | ADHB |
| **Apologies:** | | Ian Dittmer | Medical Director of Allocation, and Kidney Exchange | ADHB |
|  | | Philip Matheson | Renal physician | CCDHB |
|  | | Carl Muthu | Transplant surgeon | ADHB |

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|  | **Agenda Item** | **Notes and actions** |
| 1. | Conflicts of Interest  Guests | Advise chair of any conflict of interests.  Dr Helen Pilmore (ADHB) attended to give update on Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) items. |
| 2. | Previous minutes | * NRTLT strategic group minutes for 4 June 2021   + Passed - Helen Pilmore   + 2nd – Paul Manley * NRTLT Operations group minutes for 24 September 2021   + Passed – Denise Beechey   + 2nd - Claire Beckett |
| 3. | Actions Update | 1. Pancreas Allocation with Non-Kidney Organ – document has been finalised and is now available for viewing on MOH NRTS site [NRTS papers and reports](https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/leadership-ministry/expert-groups/national-renal-transplant-service/nrts-papers-and-reports) 2. Transplant co-ordinators study day 2021 – completed. 3. Long suspended patients process – ongoing. |
| 4. | CD Update – NRTS/NRTLT Past and Future | **Review of NRTS/NRTLT goals and strategies to improve access to kidney transplant;**  **Consider future for NRTS/NRTLT in view of the imminent 30 June 2022 health structure changes.**  **Summary:**   * Clinical Governance and Leadership remain very important * Transition to a permanent structure needed * Political will is not evident – BAU looks likely   **Actions:**   1. **NRTS/NRTLT** will take a positive and proactive approach to ensure NRTS and its current and future needs are visible to the decision makers in the transition to the new ‘Health New Zealand’. 2. **Nick Cross and Jo Brown** will arrange an opportunity to talk to health funders / restructuring committee about the ongoing needs to NRTS/NRTLT. 3. **Nick Cross** will advise **Jo Brown** of expiring contracts |
| 5. | Ethnicity and Access to Pre-emptive Transplantation in Paediatrics | Presentation by Dr Chanel Prestidge (ADHB) - Ethnicity and Access to Pre-emptive Transplantation in Paediatrics.  Retrospective study.  Focus – issues to do with ‘missed opportunities’.  Some possible solutions. |
| 6. | TSANZ Items December 2021 | Presentation by Dr Helen Pilmore (ADHB) on latest from TSANZ. |
| 7. | Results of CoVAC NZ study in terms of vaccination responses in Tx and Dialysis patients | Presentation of study results by Dr Helen Pilmore (ADHB) on Results of CoVAC NZ study in terms of vaccination responses in Tx and Dialysis patients. |
| 8. | Equity Project   * Report * Advice to Funders | **General progress**:   1. TOR was changed to include equity in December 2020 2. Allocation policy review with equity focus   Draft final report in progress.   1. ASSET study   Data available, initial presentation planned for March  2022   1. Discussion with funders – continuing.   **Draft reports**:   1. **Improving equity of access to kidney transplants in New Zealand** – this report is the summary of the current NRTS Equity Project.   **Action:**  **Colette** – edit / finalise document to be ready for distribution  **Nick** – provide feedback from NRTS to equity contributors.   1. **Increasing access to kidney transplantation at different DHBs.** (Advice to funders). Draft.   **Action:**  **Nick** – finalise document, present to funders in Q1 2022. |
| 9. | Hep B Transmission | **Action:**  **Philip Matheson** (CCDHB) will present information at next Operations meeting Friday 11th February (Operations Group) – Zoom |
| 10. | Allocation Issues Register | No new issues added.  **Agreed** to include donor derived illness events in Allocation Issues Register. |
| 11. | Retention of waiting list points after failed transplant policy | **Currently:**   * Waiting time increases from listing date   + Key determinant of allocation * Longer wait, more likely to be offered a kidney   **Discussion:**  Is failure of kidney transplant after a week too short for a patient to lose their place on the waiting list?  Timeframe was introduced in 1998 to cover technical failure, e.g. graft failure.  Other countries have longer time to assess possible failure.  ‘In meeting’ vote – NRTLT will extend the current period of one week. No one present was not in favour of changing to an extended period.  **Action:**   1. **Survey NRTLT** members to develop an optimum time period (e.g. three months or one year).   **Nick** will set up a survey of NRTLT members to get this information   1. **Nick** will get current patient waiting list from Ian to identify affected patients (for retrospective fairness and numbers of patients involved).   Following survey, if all agree, the change will be made out of session. |
| 12. | Patient representatives reimbursement | The two NRTLT consumer representatives report that they have not received any reimbursement.  Nick reports that there has been no progress at MOH national office level despite escalation of the issue. Possible NRTS solution - pay consumer reps directly from DHB travel funds. Will need approval and pathway. **Action:**  Nick will investigate a local method of reimbursement. |
| 13. | FRACP Training project with University of Otago | Attention: doctors with trainees (which can include nurse practitioners or nurse co-ordinators).  Expression of interest needed.  Project described in proposal document.  Contact either Nick or Dr Suetonia Palmer (CDHB) for further information. |
| 14 | Allocation Algorithm + Biopsy/Communication Document Changes | Allocation algorithm changes reviewed.  Draft AA document is near completion, biopsy/communication document needs more input.  **Actions:**  **Nick** – standardise nomenclature. Edit document to use *either* ‘donor surgeon’ *or* ‘retrieval surgeon’.  **Janice** – Provide comments |
| 15. | Waiting time start to be from dialysis start - implementation plan | NZ Blood service will calculate waiting times starting from 17th January 2022. Coordinators are aware of the impending change.  For discussion at Nephrologists Zoom meeting Dec 10. |
| **16.** | NRTLT meeting dates 2022  Friday 11th February (Ops) - Zoom  Friday 25th March (Ops) - F2F  Friday 27th May (Strategic) - F2F  Friday 8th of July (Ops) - Zoom  Friday 23rd September (Ops) - F2F  Friday 2nd December (Strategic) - F2F | Time and date saver entries will be entered into members’ calendars. |

**Next meeting;** Friday 11th February (Operations Group) - Zoom