

NODTO

National Organ Donation and Transplantation Office

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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Director's Statement

I am pleased to present the inaugural annual report of the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office (NODTO) for the year end 31st December 2013. The office was established to provide governance, integration and leadership for organ donation and transplantation in Ireland.

In 2013, there was an impressive increase in the rate of transplantation in Ireland, leading to a record number of transplants by the end of the year, a total of 294. We have witnessed particular increments in living kidney transplantation and lung transplantation, which had a record number of 32. This simple statement underestimates the significant collective effort of all involved particularly the ICU staff and transplant surgical teams.

The National Organ Donation and Transplant Office plans to build on this success by working in cooperation with all the stakeholders involved, including the patient organisations, the transplant centres, organ donating hospitals and all the other supporting services, to provide more transplants and reduce the waiting time for transplant recipient patients.

2013 saw a change to the team of the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office with the addition of Ms Ciara Norton, Senior Manager and Ms Margaret Giffney, Administrator.

I would like to thank the members of the National Organ Donation Transplant Advisory Group (NODTAG) for their work and commitment and acknowledge the support of the HSE Director General, Mr Tony O'Brien, Ms Laverne McGuinness, Dr Philip Crowley and Ms Maeve Raeside in effecting the work of the committee through networking with all the relevant

stakeholders. Furthermore the support of both Mr Mark Murphy CEO of the Irish Kidney Association and Mr Philip Watt CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland has been invaluable.

I wish to congratulate the transplant centres on their endeavour, which has resulted in an increase in transplant rates in Ireland in 2013. Consequently priority has been given to improving organ donation and transplant rates in Ireland and we have received much needed funding in difficult circumstances from the Minister for Health in the HSE Service Plan of 2014.

We must particularly acknowledge the support of the Minister for Health, which is significant and reflects the social and political respect held for donor families who allow the treatment of transplant surgery to be a success. Their courage and generosity in the most difficult of circumstances is inspiring to us all.

It is incumbent on the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office, the National Organ Donation and Transplant Advisory Group and all the people working in organ donation and transplantation to work together to deliver improvements and to implement the Service Plan funding and targets that have been assigned for 2014. I look forward to working with everyone to achieve the common aims.

Professor Jim Egan
Director
National Organ Donation and Transplant Office



Report of the NODTO

The National Organ Donation and Transplant Office was established in 2011. It acts under legislation as the delegated body for the HSE, to establish quality standards and protocols for the entire solid organ donation/transplantation process and to comply with the EU Commission's 10 point action plan in relation to organ donation and transplantation with Statutory Instrument (SI) 325 (2012).

The NODTO was initiated to provide governance, integration and leadership for organ donation and transplant in Ireland. The office is responsible for:

- The development, coordination and management of a strategic framework for organ donation and transplant.
- Informing the continual development of services and ensuring best use of resources.
- Facilitating an integrated team approach to organ donation and transplant services within Ireland.

The Directive on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation was signed into Irish legislation in 2012 and assigns the following responsibilities to the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office:

- Ensure that a framework for quality and safety is established to cover all stages of organ donation and transplant of organs

- Ensure that reporting systems are in place for adverse events related to the quality and safety of organs for organ donation and transplantation
- Ensure data collection for publication annually in relation to organ donation and transplantation activities
- Ensure appropriate organ exchange agreements and arrangements are in place between member states
- Ensure that a living donor register is kept in accordance with data protection legislation

The office consists of a Director, a Senior Manager and an Administrator. The team were recruited in 2013. The office relocated to Parnell Street in October 2013. The team will expand in 2014 to include quality management personnel and the National Organ Procurement Service. The NODTO is governed by the HSE and there is a clinical advisory group, namely the National Organ Donation and Transplant Advisory Group, which provides recommendations and sets direction for the office.

Service Planning

Priority for the NODTO in 2013 had been to develop the capacity of the NODTO to deliver improved organ donation and transplant rates in Ireland. In 2012 a business case was progressed through the HSE highlighting the benefits of 1) deploying organ donation personnel across the hospital groups, 2) quality managers to facilitate the implementation of a national quality and safety framework for organs and 3) additional procurement personnel. These structures were supported by the Minister for Health and included in the HSE Service Plan 2014.

Serious Adverse Events

The NODTO and the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) have a joint responsibility to receive serious adverse events in relation to organ donation and transplantation. This joint reporting scheme commenced in 2013. Six incidents were reported in 2013. All were reviewed by the NODTAG and advice was issued as appropriate to the relevant locations. The purpose of the reporting system is to learn and improve from the experience of the serious adverse events. In all cases they were dealt with appropriately at location and at national level, where relevant, and the learning was shared within the relevant organisations.

Reporting on Activities

The NODTO has commenced documenting organ donation and transplant activities on a regular basis. This included gathering and reporting on activities as requested by parliamentary questions, public representations, media queries and other areas of the health services looking for information. The office, in partnership with the procurement service and transplant centres, functions as the source for information for any European data that has been collected.

Meetings and Collaboration with Stakeholders

The office has worked closely and collaborated with the HSE, regulatory bodies, the Department of Health, stakeholders and patient organisations to advance and promote organ donation and transplantation in Ireland. The office led and participated in meetings with the Department of Health, the IMB, patient organisations, transplant centres, NHS BT and other health services in 2013. Representatives from the office attended European Regulatory and Clinical meetings and met with relevant personnel in other jurisdictions.

Consultation Event on Organ Donation and Transplantation

The government proposes to introduce an opt-out system of consent for organ donation. Consent will be deemed to be given unless the person has, while alive, registered his/her wish not to become an organ donor after death. However, it is proposed that even though consent is deemed, the next of kin will, in practice, always be consulted prior to removing any organs. If the next of kin objects to the organ donation the donation will not proceed. This is known as "soft" opt-out.

The Department of Health undertook a public consultation between 19th July and 20th September 2013 on the practical aspects of introducing an opt-out system of consent for organ donation. A total of 57 submissions were received and an overview of these submissions is available on the Department's website www.doh.ie

The Department of Health and NODTO hosted a consultation event on organ donation and transplantation in Dublin Castle on 21st November 2013. Approximately 80 key stakeholders attended this consultation event, which built on the public consultation process and also considered broader priorities in the area of organ donation and transplantation.

Discussion topics covered:

1. How to manage an opt-out system of consent
2. Practical issues of implementation
3. What is working well/what is not working well
4. Priorities for the future

The outcome of the public consultation and the consultation event will inform the development of the legislative proposals which will give effect to an opt-out system of consent for organ donation. Work on these proposals is currently being progressed.

Organ Exchange Programmes

NODTO is responsible to ensure that appropriate organ exchange agreements have been put in place. Lung transplantation of adult patients in the UK came to a conclusion at the end of 2013. Adult lung transplantation is now completely carried out, for the population of Ireland, within the national heart and lung transplant centre.

Donation and Transplant Programmes

Organ Donation and Retrieval in Ireland

Organ donation in Ireland is currently based on a voluntary donation system (opt in) and occurs in 32 intensive care units throughout Ireland. Currently there are no organ donation personnel deployed in Irish Intensive Care Units. There is a voluntary "Link Nurse" in a proportion of Intensive Care Units across the country, who, laudably foster organ donation.

The three transplant centres have developed independently of each other and have different requirements in relation to organ donation. Each transplant centre has its own organ retrieval team, which provides 24/7 service and which travels nationwide to retrieve organs.

National Renal and Pancreatic Transplant Programme

The National Renal & Pancreatic Transplant Programme is the longest established and largest transplant programme in Ireland and is based in Beaumont Hospital. The first Kidney Transplant was performed in Jervis Street Hospital in January 1964 and to date 4103 renal transplants have taken place. There are 2200 recipients alive with functioning kidney transplants. This is the fourth highest in Europe. Pancreas Transplantation was established in 1992. Transplant personnel from Beaumont also provide the paediatric renal transplantation service in Temple Street Hospital.

National Liver Transplant Programme

The Liver Transplant Programme in Ireland was launched in January 1993, with the official opening of the Liver Unit in October 1993 by Mr Brendan Howlin, then Minister for Health. The development of the programme in Ireland was phased over several years and included an initial two-year liaison with King's College Hospital in London, who already had a fully developed programme in Liver Transplantation. During this period, all members of the future Irish Transplant Team - medical, nursing and paramedical - spent time training in liver transplantation at King's College Hospital. The links with Kings College Hospital have been maintained over the years to provide a second opinion for complex cases.

In the initial years of the programme small numbers of liver transplants were carried out, with just 17 in the first year. These numbers have increased significantly over the years with 50 - 65 transplants being carried out annually over the last number of years. At the end of 2013, 845 liver transplants had been performed, with success rates very much in keeping with the best results achieved in UK and European centres.

The continued success of the liver transplant programme and the comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to liver disease, which is employed in St Vincent's University Hospital, has resulted in an increased rate of referral of patients for consideration for liver transplantation. Liver Transplantation is carried out for a wide variety of indications including both acute liver failure and chronic liver disease. Paediatric liver transplant is conducted in the UK.

The National Heart Transplant Programme

The Heart Transplant Programme is based in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. The Team perform all adult heart transplants performed in the country. To date over 300 heart transplants have been performed. Paediatric heart transplantation is managed via Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, and is conducted in various UK hospitals on their behalf.

The National Lung Transplant Programme

The lung transplant programme is located at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. The paediatric transplantation programme is conducted in various UK hospitals on behalf of the Irish Republic. The first lung transplant was performed in 2005 and since then the programme has grown incrementally. In 2006 the first double lung transplant was undertaken. In 2007 the first lung transplant for a cystic fibrosis patient occurred.

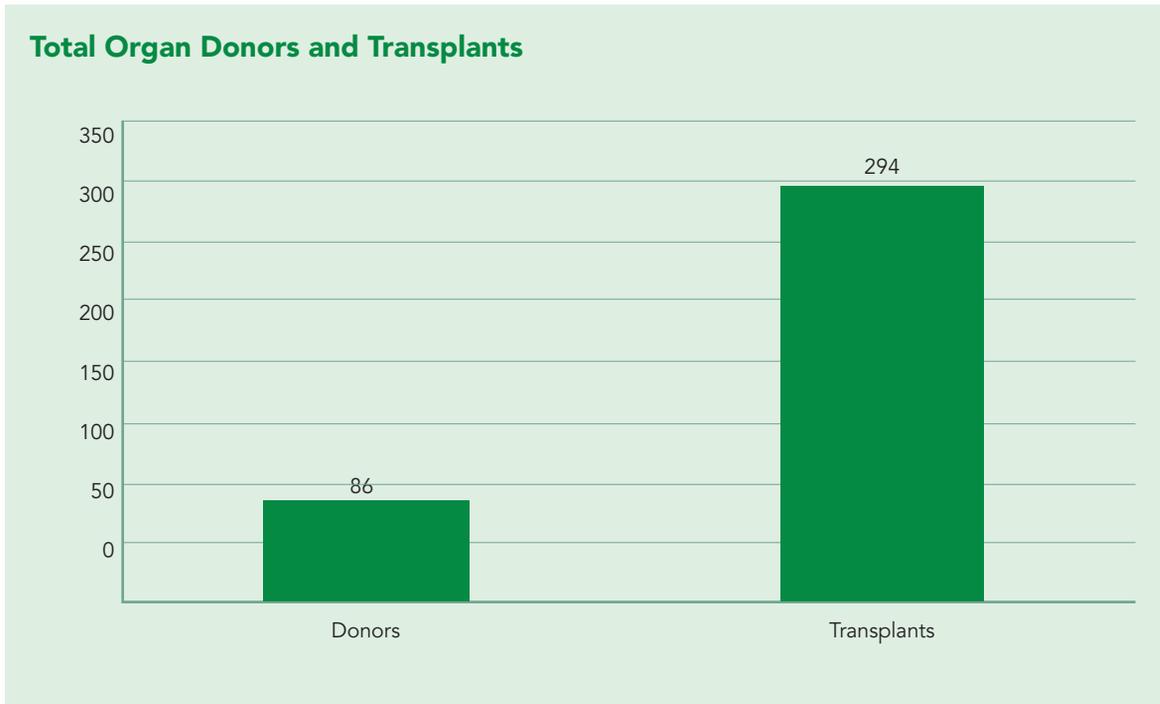
Performing a record 32 adult lung transplants in 2013 has allowed for repatriation of commissioned transplant services from Newcastle. The Irish programme has demonstrated its ability to provide care for even the most critically ill and complex patients requiring lung transplants. In

2013 the first lung transplant on a patient with primary pulmonary hypertension was performed and the first lobar (surgical downsizing) lung transplant was successfully undertaken. The national extra-corporeal life support (ECLS) service has supported such patients through the peri-operative period. Preliminary work has gone into establishing a non-heart beating (NHB) donor lung transplant programme.

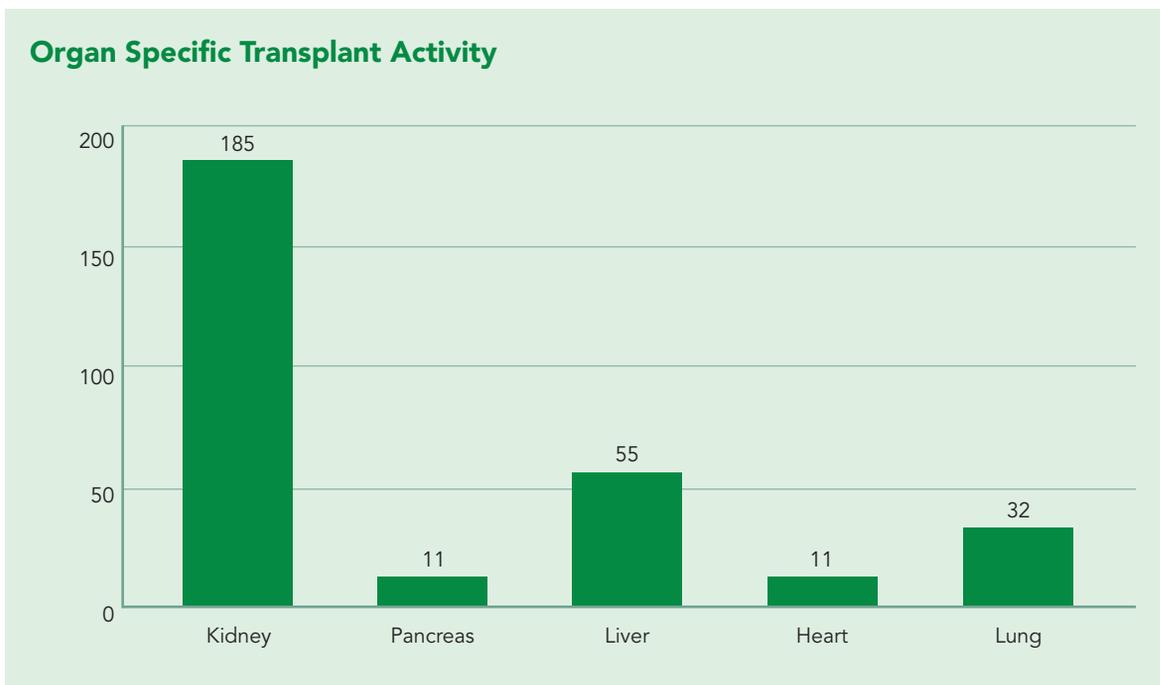
Organ Procurement Service

Currently no independent organ procurement service exists in Ireland. The renal transplant coordinators have historically provided procurement (donor) coordination services for liver, lung and heart transplantation as well as its original primary function of coordinating renal and pancreas transplantation. They deliver a 24 hour on-call service for the three transplant centres and deal with all organ donor referrals.

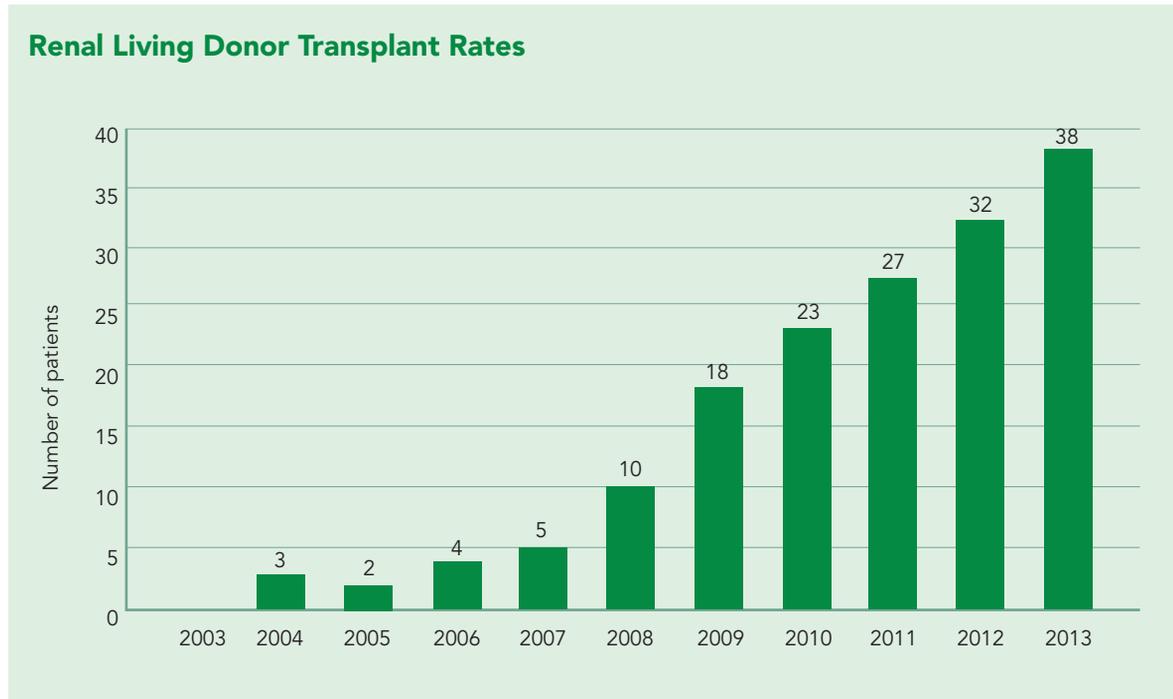
Activity in 2013



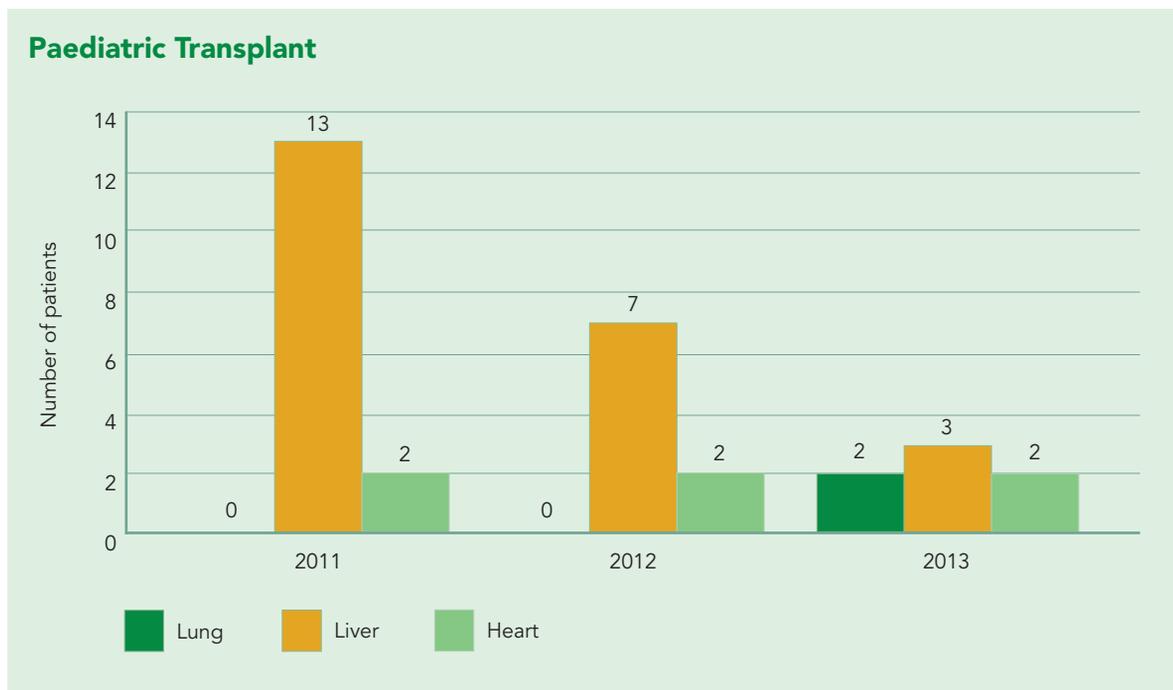
Ratio of donors to transplants: **3.4 : 1**
82 Adult donors; 4 donors < 19 years old



Renal Living Donor



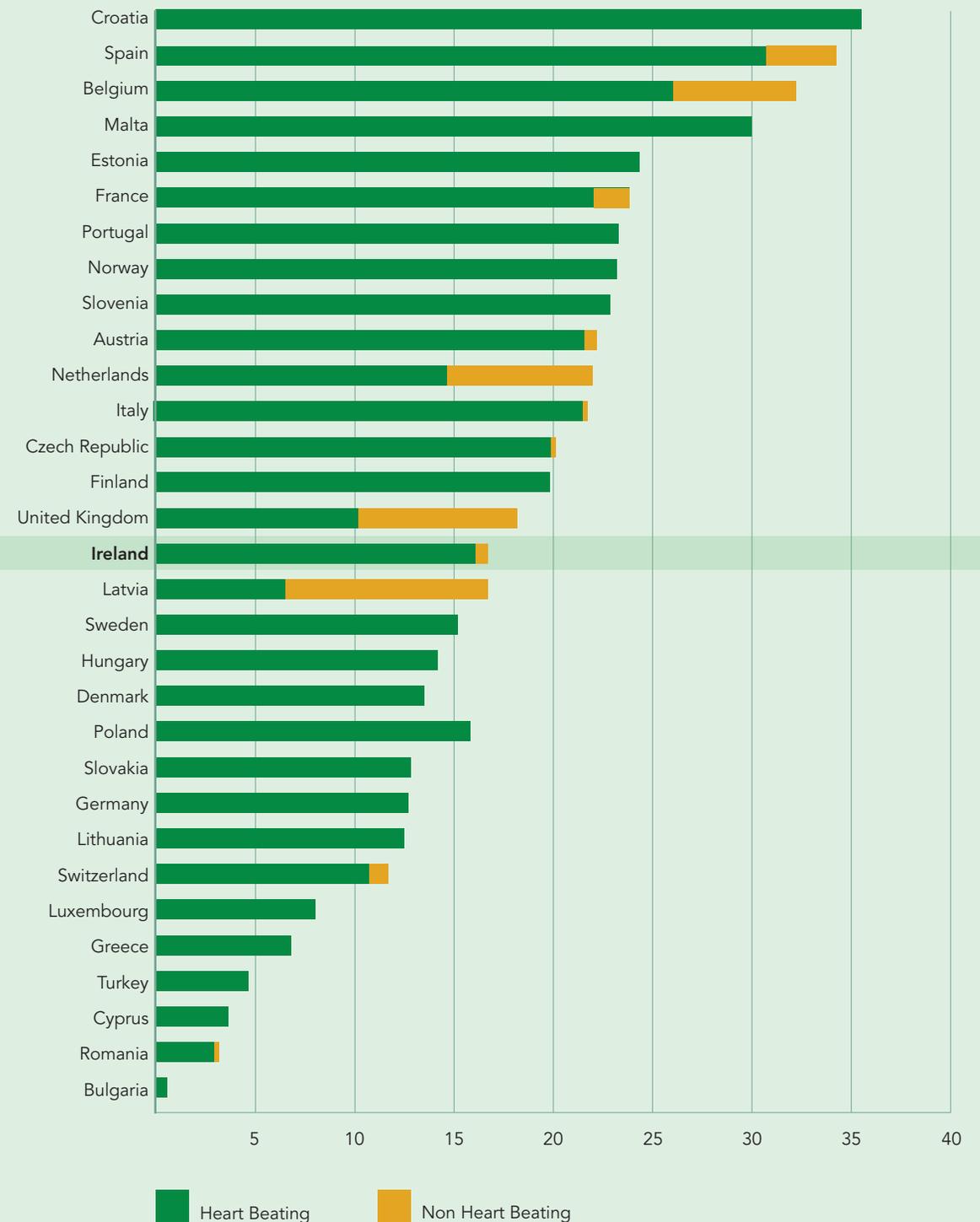
Irish Paediatric Transplants in the UK



Organ Donation Statistics

European Deceased Organ Donor Rates 2012

per million of population



Donor Figures Per Hospital Group

Dublin North East					
Group	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	28	19	29	18	28

*Beaumont Hospital ; Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda; Connolly Hospital; Cavan General Hospital; Rotunda Hospital; Louth County Hospital; Monaghan Hospital.

Dublin Midlands				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
10	6	14	10	11

*St James's Hospital; Tallaght Hospital; Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore General Hospital; Naas General Hospital; Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise General Hospital.

Dublin East				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
13	11	14	19	11

*Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; St Vincent's University Hospital; Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar; St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny; Wexford General Hospital; Our Lady's Hospital Navan; St Columcille's Hospital; St Michael's Hospital Dun Laoghaire.

South/South West				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
21	11	20	15	20

*Bantry General Hospital; Cork University Hospital; Cork University Maternity Hospital; Kerry General Hospital; Mallow General Hospital; Mercy University Hospital; South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital; South Tipperary General Hospital; Waterford Regional Hospital.

West/North West				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
7	8	9	10	10

*University Hospital Galway; Merlin Park University Hospital; Sligo Regional Hospital; Letterkenny General Hospital; Mayo General Hospital; Portiuncula Hospital; Roscommon County Hospital

Midwest Group				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
8	2	4	4	4

*Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Limerick; Ennis General Hospital; Nenagh General Hospital; St John's Hospital Limerick.

Acute Paediatric Dublin				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
3	1	1	1	2

*Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; Children's University Hospital, Temple Street; National Children's Hospital, Tallaght

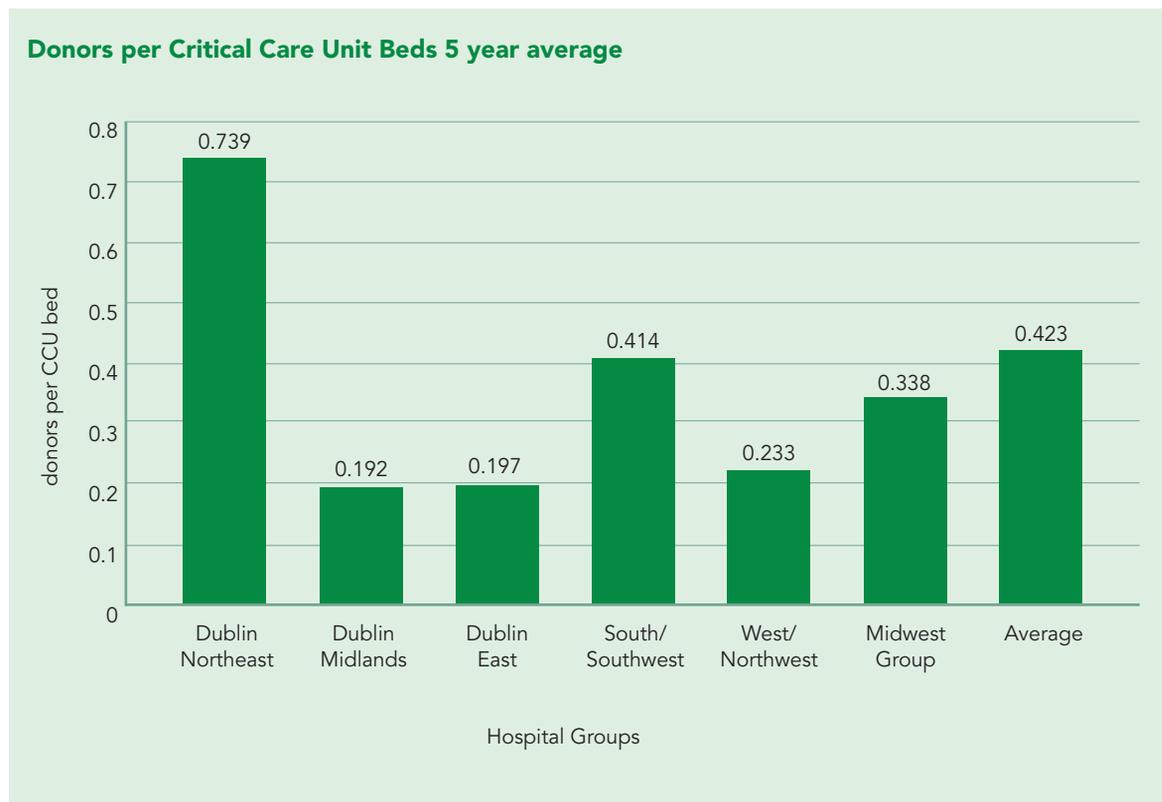
Others				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		2	0	

Mater Private Hospital; Bon Secours Hospital, Cork; Blackrock Clinic.

National Overall Total				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
90	58	93	78	86

Donors Per Million of Population				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
20	12.8	20.6	17.3	18

Donors Per Critical Care Beds, 5 Year Average



Organ Donation and Transplant Summary 2009 - 2013

Organ Donation and Transplant 2009 - 2013								
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	5 year total	5 year average
Transplantation From Deceased Donors	Kidney	154	98	165	131	147	695	139.0
	Liver	64	38	61	50	55	268	53.6
	Heart	11	3	6	10	11	41	8.2
	Lungs	5	4	8	14	32	63	12.6
	Pancreas	9	8	8	1	11	37	7.4
Sub-total		243	151	248	206	256	1104	220.8
Living Kidney Transplants		18	23	27	32	38	138	27.6
Living and Deceased Kidney Transplants		172	121	192	163	185	833	167
Total Organ Transplants		261	174	275	238	294	1242	248.4

Waiting Lists 2013

Renal & Pancreatic Transplant Waiting List

31st December 2013



Liver Transplant Waiting List

31st December 2013



Lung Transplant Waiting List

31st December 2013



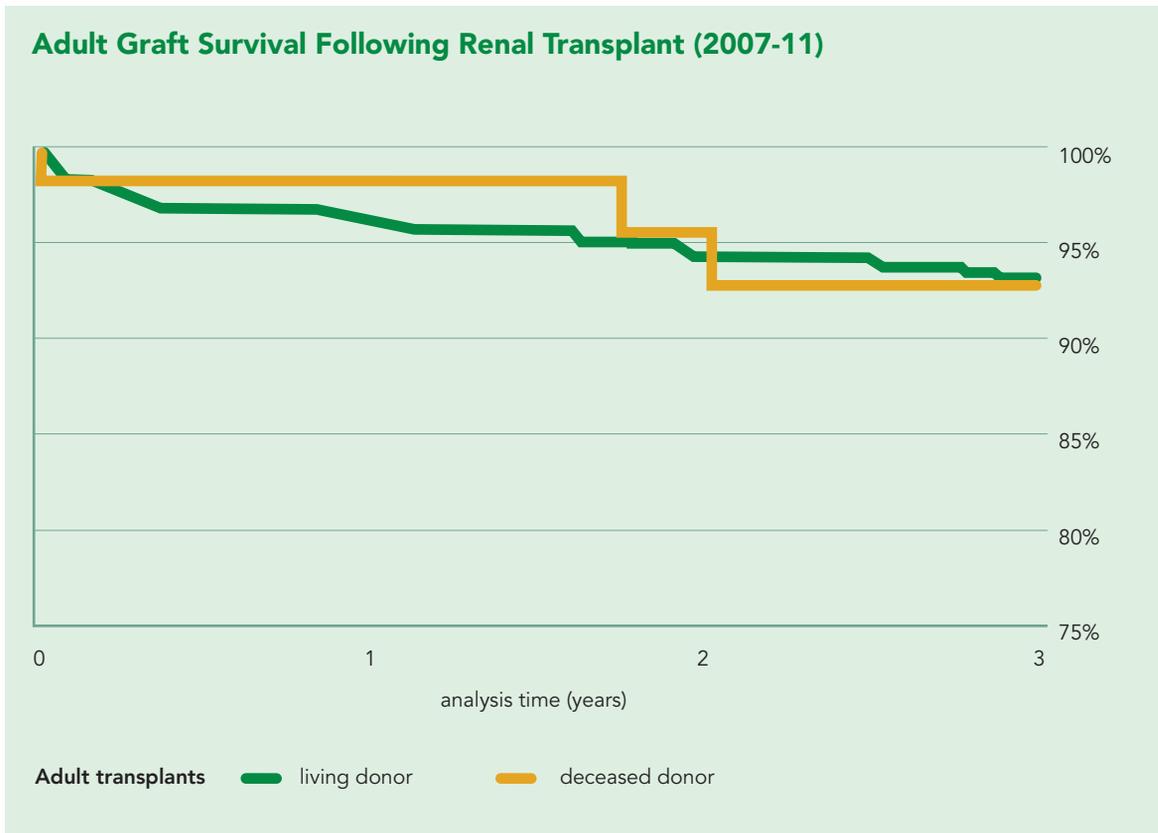
Heart Transplant Waiting List

31st December 2013



Survival Rates

(With International Comparators)



	1 year	5 year	10 year	15 year
Irish Renal Transplant Graft Survival	93%	85%	72%	60%
UK NHS BT Renal Transplant Graft Survival	94%	85%	74%	*

* Data not available

Adult Renal Transplant Patient Survival Following Deceased Brain Donation (DBD) Renal Transplant



	1 year	5 year	10 year	15 year
Irish Renal Transplant Patient Survival	96%	87%	76%	61%
UK NHS BT Renal Transplant Patient Survival	94%	85%	74%	*

* Data not available

Paediatric Renal Graft Survival Following DBD Estimates 1991 – 2011



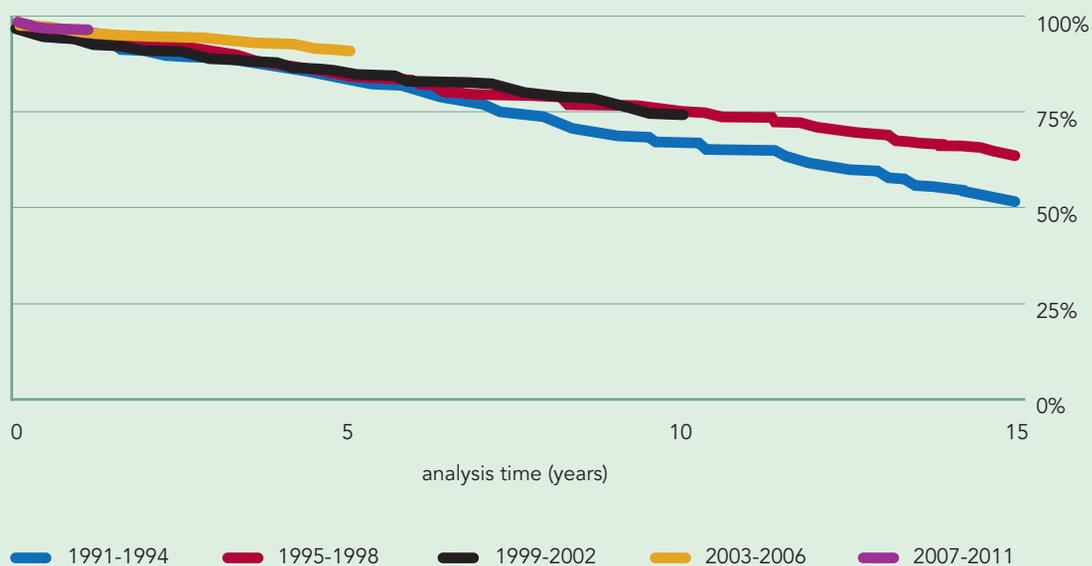
	1 year	5 year	10 year	15 year
Irish Paediatric Renal Transplant Graft Survival	95%	87%	85%	45%
UK NHS BT Paediatric Renal Transplant Graft Survival	96%	85%	66%	*

* Data not available

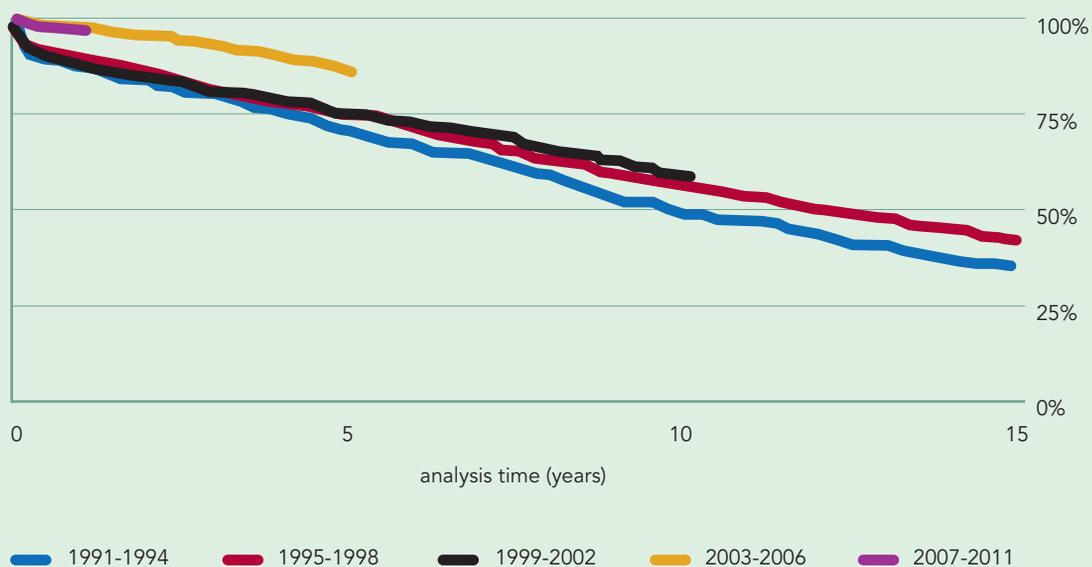
	1 year	5 year	10 year	15 year
Irish Paediatric Renal Transplant Patient Survival	98%	96%	94%	87%
UK NHS BT Paediatric Renal Transplant Patient Survival	100%	98%	96%	*

* Data not available

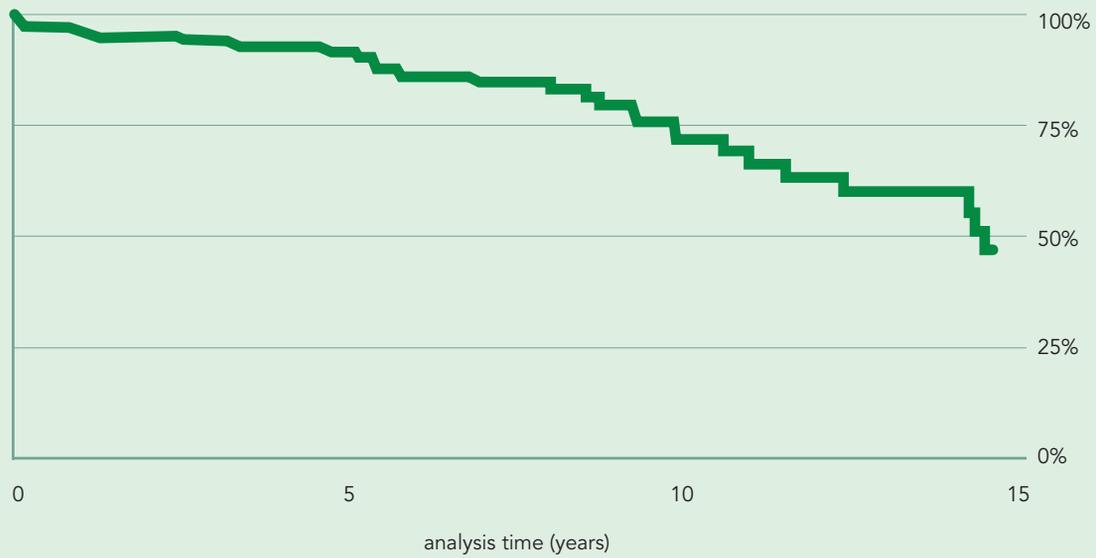
Renal Adult Deceased Donor Patient Survival by Era Transplanted



Renal Adult Deceased Donor Graft Survival by Era Transplanted



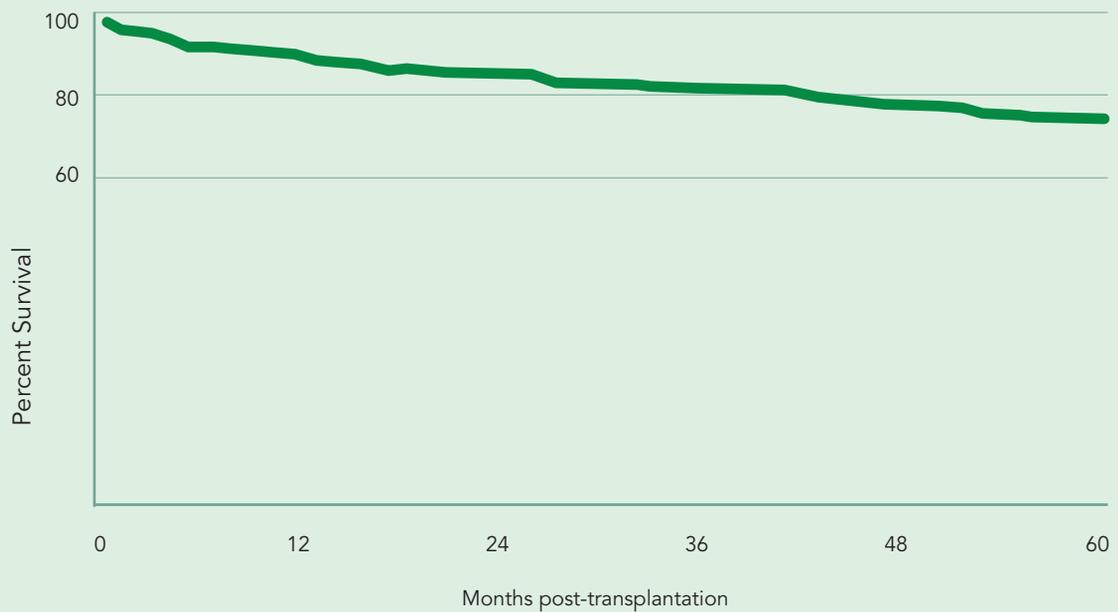
Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney (SPK) Transplant Patient Survival Rates



	1 year	5 year	10 year
Irish SPK Transplant Patient Survival	96%	91%	71%
UK NHS BT SPK Transplant Patient Survival	96%	90%	*

* Data not available

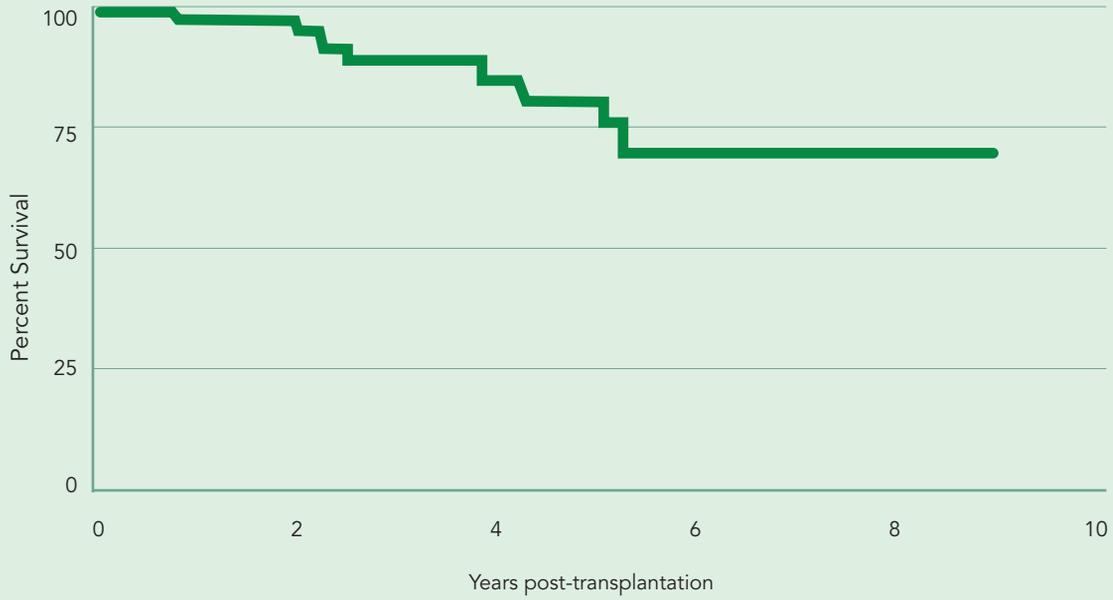
Patient Survival Liver Transplant



	1 year	5 year	10 year
Irish Liver Transplant Patient Survival	91%	79%	*
UK NHS BT Liver Transplant Patient Survival	93%	78%	61%
European Liver Transplant Registry Patient Survival	71%	71%	60%

* Data not available

Survival Following Lung Transplantation



	1 year	5 year	10 year
Irish Lung Transplant Patient Survival	97%	81%	*
UK NHS BT Lung Transplant Patient Survival	82%	51%	32%
International Society Heart Lung Transplant Patient Survival	85%	55%	35%

* Data not available

Survival Following Heart Transplantation



	1 year	5 year	10 year
Irish Heart Transplant Patient Survival	80%	72%	62%
UK NHS BT Heart Transplant Patient Survival	82%	76%	54%
International Society Heart Lung Transplant Patient Survival	85%	75%	55%

* Data not available

Priorities for 2014

Planned Deliverables

Transplant Activity	Planned 2014
Deceased renal transplant	150
Living kidney donor transplant	50
Liver transplant	60
Lung transplant	30
Heart transplant	15
Pancreas transplant	11

Planned organ donation levels 22 per million population (pmp).

Goals

- Provide ring fenced facilities for National Transplant Programmes in the respective acute hospital environments
- Develop policies and standards in relation to organ donation and transplant
- Establish a commissioning process to enhance cost effectiveness of transplantation
- Target funds to efficiency initiatives
- Establish a joint abdominal retrieval team
- Deploy medical and nursing key donation personnel throughout the acute hospital system
- Achieve the EU 10 point action plan
- Comply with EU directive 2010/53/EC
- Develop an enhanced national database for all organ donation and transplant activity
- Place key performance indicators relating to organ transplantation in the public domain.
- Establish a curriculum group on organ donation with the nursing and midwifery services directorate as part of the continuing professional development for nurses.
- Engage with NHS BT in regard to synergies in providing services for Northern Ireland.
- Initiate public awareness campaign

Membership of the National Organ Donation and Transplant Advisory Group (NODTAG)

The NODTAG is the clinical advisory group to the NODTO which provides recommendations and sets direction for the office. In 2013 the NODTAG met five times and was attended by thirteen committee members.



Professor Jim Egan
Director NODTO and Chair NODTAG
Consultant Respiratory Physician

Professor Jim Egan qualified in University College Galway. He was appointed as Lead Physician to The Irish National Lung Transplant Programme in 2000. Professor Egan is formerly Co-Chair of The American Thoracic Society / European Respiratory Society – Guideline Committee for the Management of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. He has been a member of the American and European Thoracic Societies guideline group for the Classification of Idiopathic Interstitial pneumonias. He is a former member of the American Thoracic Society – Clinical Problems Planning Committee. Professor Egan is a member of The British, Australian and Irish Thoracic Society Committee which published guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Interstitial Lung Disease. He is Co-Chair of the ATS Guidelines Committee for the management of Bronchiolitis Obliterans. He is a former spokesperson for the Irish Medical Devices Association; Clinical Trials Taskforce. Formerly he was the chairman of The European Respiratory Society Transplantation Committee. He has published approximately 120 manuscripts and also a book on the subject of Interstitial Lung Disease. He was appointed Director of the NODTO and chair of NODTAG in 2011.



Professor Peter Conlon

Consultant Nephrologist and Renal Transplant Physician

Professor Peter Conlon is a Consultant Nephrologist and Renal Transplant physician at Beaumont Hospital. Professor Conlon has an extensive research interest and has published more than 150 peer reviewed manuscripts on all aspects of kidney disease and transplantation.



Michael Conroy

Principal Officer, Department of Health

Michael Conroy is Head of the Cancer, Blood & Organs Policy Unit of the Department of Health. He has worked across a range of Government Ministries in both policy and programme roles. Apart from his current role in relation to Cancer, Blood and Organs, the main focus of Michael's policy work has been in the heritage, industry and illicit drugs areas. Michael is an economics and archaeology graduate from University College Dublin.



Dr Philip Crowley

National Director of Quality and Patient Safety

Dr. Philip Crowley is National Director of Quality and Patient Safety with the HSE since January 2011. Philip has worked for 6 years as Deputy Chief Medical Officer with the Department of Health and Children until taking up his current post. Philip continues to work as a GP part-time in an inner city Dublin practice.



Phyllis Cunningham
Transplant Coordinator

In 1986 Phyllis Cunningham was appointed the first National Transplant Coordinator in Ireland. Phyllis also established the Organ Procurement Service in Ireland and was a member of the team who set up the Living Kidney Donor Programme. Phyllis's role also involves making presentations at Local, National & International Conferences to medical and nursing staff.



Dr Rory Dwyer
Consultant in Anaesthesia and ICU Medicine

Dr Rory Dwyer is a Consultant in Anaesthesia and ICU Medicine, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. Rory is Chairman of Intensive Care Society Committee on Organ Donation and Vice-President of Intensive Care Society of Ireland. Rory is Clinical Lead for HSE ICU Audit Programme and Interim Clinical Lead for Retrieval of Critically ill Adults.



Margaret Giffney
Administrator

Mags Giffney is the Administrator for the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office. Prior to taking up this post Mags worked in an administrative capacity in Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown in the Respiratory & Sleep Diagnostics Department and in the Cardiology Department. Mags is a graduate of the Dublin Institute of Technology with a degree in Business.



Mr David Hickey

Director of Kidney & Pancreas Transplantation & Organ Procurement in Ireland

Transplant Surgeon, Trained in Ireland, France & US. Returned from Pittsburgh in 1990 and has been director of transplantation since. Established Pancreas Transplantation in 1992. Hosted World Congress for Pancreas & islet Cell Transplantation (IPITA) in 2005. Member of American Society of Transplant Surgeons, (ASTS) and European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT). Member Court of Examiners European Boards of Surgery, Transplant Section (UEMS).



Mr Emir Hoti

Consultant Hepatobiliary Liver Transplant Surgeon

Mr Emir Hoti, a Consultant Hepatobiliary Liver Transplant Surgeon, is the Clinical Director of the National Liver Transplant Programme at St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and is the Director of the Medical Board of Saint Michael's Hospital. He was awarded the FRCS (Gen/HpB) in 2006 and FEBS (Transplantation) in 2008. Mr Hoti mentors many surgeons on Surgical Hepatobiliary/Liver Transplantation and runs the Fellowship Training Programme at SVUH.



Dr Diarmuid Houlihan

Consultant Hepatologist

Dr Diarmaid Houlihan is a Consultant Hepatologist in the St Vincent's Hospital. He joined the liver transplant team in 2013 after spending 4 years in the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham. He has extensive research interests and has completed his PhD examining the therapeutic potential of stem cells in liver disease. He has numerous publications in international journals in the field of liver transplantation and his particular areas of interest include viral hepatitis, hepatocellular carcinoma and liver transplantation.



Mary Keogan
Consultant Immunologist

Dr Mary Keogan is a consultant clinical immunologist, medical director of the National Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Service for Solid Organ Transplantation and National Specialty Director for Immunology. Dr Keogan's research interests include transplantation, clinical immunology and health care delivery. She has published a textbook, as well as many peer-reviewed papers and reviews.



Mr James McCarthy
Director of Heart and Lung Transplantation Programme

Mr James McCarthy is the Director of Heart & Lung Transplantation Programme, Mater Hospital.

Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Mater Hospital.

Training: Ireland & Cleveland Clinic, USA.



Ciara Norton
Senior Manager

Ciara Norton is Senior Manager of the National Organ Donation and Transplant Office. Ciara is a graduate of UCD with a degree in business and a Masters in Business Administration in UCD and RCSI in 1998 – 2000. She also holds an MSc in Innovation Management in the Public Sector awarded by University of Ulster and Letterkenny Institute of Technology in 2008. Ciara has worked on a number of projects within the HSE, most recently Radiation Protection Lead, and Radiology Programme Manager in the clinical programmes.



Dr Colman O'Loughlin
Consultant Intensivist

Dr Colman O'Loughlin is a Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine & Anaesthesia in the Mater Hospital. Colman's special interests are Cardiac Intensive Care Heart & Lung Transplant, Extra Corporeal Life Support, Transoesophageal Echocardiography, and Mechanical Circulatory Support. Colman spent 5 years in ICU/Anaesthesia at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.



Ms Karen Redmond
Specialist Thoracic Lung Transplant Surgeon

Ms Karen Redmond is the Specialist Thoracic and Lung Transplant Surgeon at the Mater Hospital and is the first female dedicated lung transplant surgeon ever to be appointed in Ireland. Ms Redmond was awarded a minimal invasive scholarship to train in her subspecialty field of thoracic surgery and lung transplantation at Toronto General Hospital, Canada, before being appointed as a consultant at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Trust London UK. She returned to Ireland to take up her post at the Mater Hospital in 2011, which is the national heart and lung transplant centre.

The NODTO would like to acknowledge Professor Oscar Traynor who retired in November 2013, Professor Aidan McCormack, Dr. Brian O'Brien and Ms Maeve Raeside who stepped down from NODTAG in 2013.









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