

12 May 2015

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To Trust Chief Executives in England and Health Board Chief Executives in Wales

Dear Colleague

Latest Organ Donation Data

I am pleased to send you the latest report on organ donation in your Trust/Health Board. Unfortunately overall organ donor numbers fell slightly in 2014/15 and fewer people received transplants, despite a few very busy months.

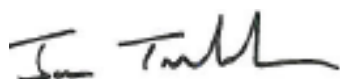
It is therefore really important that every hospital Donation Committee redoubles it's efforts to make sure that practice is as near perfect as possible and in line with NICE guidelines. Each day there are an average of only 14 people in the UK who die in circumstances where they could be organ donors so it's incredibly important that their families receive support from a trained professional who can answer all their questions.

A quarter of all families in the UK are approached about donation by a member of NHS staff who has not been specifically trained for this role. When this happens the outcomes are much poorer and families are less likely to consent to donation.

We would therefore ask you to set a clear expectation for your hospital that every potential donor's family is supported by one of our Specialist Nurses. Each nurse receives up to 12 days training every year to develop their expertise in this challenging role.

Thank you for your support to date and can I please ask that you ensure that your Board is aware of progress locally and continues to support the vital work of your Organ Donation Committee, your Donation Committee Chair and your Clinical Lead for Organ Donation.

Yours sincerely



Ian Trenholm
Chief Executive