



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

ORGAN DONATION

**REIMBURSEMENT OF HOSPITALS MAINTAINING
POTENTIAL DONORS**

Summary

The working Party on the Supply of Donor Organs for Transplantation chaired by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg in 1987 recommended that "there should be reimbursement to the district health authority for the cost incurred in providing donor organs".

Health Ministers accepted the recommendation as a means of removing a potential obstacle to organ retrieval. In implementing such a scheme, account has been taken of the terms of the Human Organ Transplants Act 1989, which prohibits payments for human organs. Reimbursement should be made to the Health Board (where a directly managed unit is involved) or NHS Trust providing the service.

Ministers have now approved the scheme described below, which will take as its starting date 1 April 1993. This guidance advises Health Boards and Trusts of the terms of the scheme and seeks their co-operation in running it.

Action

Health Boards and Trusts are asked to identify any hospital in their area that includes a unit which would satisfy the conditions of the scheme and which would wish to participate. A registration form is attached as an Annex to this letter, and should be completed in respect of each unit which wishes to be considered for participation in the scheme. Completed forms should be returned to:

Dr Chris Rogers
UKTSSA
Southmead Road
BRISTOL
BS10 5ND
(Telephone 0272 507777 Ext 212)

31 August 1993

This MEL amends
MEL No 101

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS
Trusts

For information:
General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
Health Education
Board for Scotland

To be copied to Unit
General Managers for
action

Enquiries to:

Dr Chris Rogers
UKTSSA
Southmead Road
BRISTOL
BS10 5ND
(Tel: 0272 507777
Ext 212)

Fox Den Road
BRISTOL
BS12 6RR
(Tel: 0272 757575)
Fax: 0272 757570

OR, from 18 October 1993

Fox Den Road
BRISTOL
BS12 6RR
(Telephone 0272 757575)
Fax: 0272 757570

Hospitals registered before 1 November 1993 will be reimbursed from 1 April 1993. Hospitals registered after that date will be included from the date of registration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Palmer'.

DAVID PALMER
Deputy Director of Finance

**REGISTRATION FORM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DONOR HOSPITALS -
SCOTLAND**

Hospital

Address

Telephone Number

Fax Number

**Units maintaining potential
donors
(eg ITU, paediatric ITU, neuro)**

**Name of person responsible for
administering scheme**

Designation

Telephone Number

Fax Number

**PGO Number to which
payments should be made
(Paymaster General Office)**

Please return to:

**Dr C Rogers
United Kingdom Transplant Support Service Authority
Southmead Road
BRISTOL
BS10 5ND Telephone: 0272 507777 Ext 212**

or from October 1993

**Fox Den Road
BRISTOL
BS12 6RR Tel: 0272 757575
Fax: 0272 757570**

ORGAN DONATION

Reimbursement of Hospitals Maintaining Potential Donors

Executive Summary

The Working Party on the Supply of Donor Organs for Transplantation chaired by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg in 1987 recommended that "there should be reimbursement to the district health authority for the cost incurred in providing donor organs".

Health Ministers accepted the recommendation as a means of removing a potential obstacle to organ retrieval. In implementing such a scheme, account has been taken of the terms of the Human Organ Transplants Act 1989, which prohibits payments for human organs. Reimbursement should be made to the Health Board (where a directly managed unit is involved) or NHS Trust providing the service.

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Outline of the Scheme

General

1. The objective of the scheme is to reimburse appropriate units for costs which have been incurred in the additional activity they undertake to provide the potential for retrieving human organs for transplantation. The intention is that reimbursement generally reflects the level of activity involved using the number of donors maintained by the unit and average notional costs as guiding principles.

2. Human organs are defined by the Human Organ Transplants Act 1989. The units involved will be intensive care units or units with comparable facilities such as neurosurgical centres. The scheme does not cover other hospital facilities or work done solely for the retrieval of corneas.

How reimbursement will be determined

3. Only hospitals registered with UKTSSA will be eligible. The amount to be reimbursed will be determined quarterly on the basis of:

- the number of donors maintained, as notified to UKTSSA, and;
- standard average costs. The average cost incurred in maintaining a potential donor has been calculated at £1,000.

4. Reimbursement will be provided whether or not organs are eventually used and regardless of the number of organs retrieved or resources used in any individual case.

Funding

5. The scheme will be funded centrally and administered on behalf of The Scottish Office Home and Health Department by UKTSSA. The Authority already collects statutorily required data on organ retrieval and transplantation.

How the Scheme Will Operate

6. Before authorising reimbursement, the Department will need to be satisfied that certain conditions have been met. These conditions are straightforward and are part of normal organ retrieval procedure. The conditions are that in each case:

- the brain stem death tests have confirmed brain stem death;
- the necessary consents have been obtained; and
- the organ(s) is/are suitable for transplantation.

7. As at present, a potential donor should be notified to UKTSSA who will allocate a unique number. The type of ward where the donor is being maintained should be given. If this is eligible the case will be included for the reimbursement calculation as soon as either:

- UKTSSA receives notification from the transplanting unit that an organ relating to the case has been transplanted. This will confirm that the conditions for reimbursement have been met; or
- in the event that no organs are used, UKTSSA receives an application from the unit giving an explanation as to why no organs were used. This is to ensure that the conditions for reimbursement have been met although no organ was transplanted (eg because no suitable recipient could be identified).

8. Reimbursements will be authorised by the Department and made on a quarterly basis through a transfer to the PGO account specified by the Health Board or Trust. It is intended that reimbursement should compensate the individual units incurring the costs and Boards should bear this in mind.

9. Reimbursement will be followed by a schedule detailing the basis of the payment so that those responsible for registering hospitals will be able to check for accuracy. Account inquiries should be made to UKTSSA.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DONOR HOSPITALS - SCOTLAND

Hospital	
Address	
Telephone Number Fax Number	
Units maintaining potential donors (eg ITU, paediatric ITU, neuro)	
Name of person responsible for administering scheme Designation Telephone Number Fax Number	
PGO Number to which payments should be made (Paymaster General Office)	

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