

# COVID-19 impact on Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) and Highly Sensitized Patient (HSP) programs

Dear Interprovincial Organ Sharing Program Partners:

On March 13, the chairs and co-chairs of the Kidney Transplant Advisory Committee and the Living Donation Advisory Committee met with Canadian Blood Services OTDT leadership to discuss the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic to Canadian Blood Services' interprovincial organ sharing programs, and made the following decisions:

## **Kidney Paired Donation Program**

- All donation and transplant surgeries related to the **Kidney Paired Donation** program (KPD) will be postponed effective Monday March 16 for a minimum of six weeks. **Transplant programs are advised to release all scheduled KPD surgeries** and inform donors and transplant candidates of the postponements.
- The identification of new transplantation chains will also be suspended for a minimum of six weeks.
- During this pause in surgeries, it is recommended that programs continue to register new pairs and review and evaluate matches in open chains where possible.
- Programs should communicate to their donors and recipients that this is a temporary situation to safeguard patients, and we will endeavor to return to normal operations as soon as it is safe to do so.

This decision was made in recognition of the risk to donors travelling, the risk of infection and quarantine requirements for donors and transplant recipients, and the fact that living donor transplants are considered deferrable if it is in the best interest of the donors and patients except in the case of medical urgency for a transplant candidate.

## **Highly Sensitized Patient Program**

- The **Highly Sensitized Patient (HSP) registry will continue to operate until further notice**. Each program can determine if an offer will be accepted based on their hospital's policies and processes for deceased donor organ transplantation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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These decisions and recommendations are based on the evidence and information available at the time of the meeting. We will monitor COVID-19 updates daily and will reassess the situation on a regular basis to determine when it may be possible to resume regular operations. Resumption of regular operations will be based on consensus that it is safe to do so for donors and recipients.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clay Gillrie, Associate Director Interprovincial Organ Sharing [clay.gillrie@blood.ca](mailto:clay.gillrie@blood.ca). Kathy Yetzer, Senior Advisor and Program Lead for KPD at [Kathy.yetzer@blood.ca](mailto:Kathy.yetzer@blood.ca) or Sean Delaney, Senior Advisor and Program Lead for Interprovincial Organ Sharing (HSP) at [sean.delaney@blood.ca](mailto:sean.delaney@blood.ca).

Sincerely:

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