

**Expanded Practice Protocol for the Review of Renal
Transplant Patients in Clinic by Advanced
Practitioners/Trainee Advanced Practitioners in Renal
Transplantation**

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

CATEGORY:	Procedural Document
CLASSIFICATION:	Clinical
PURPOSE	This protocol supports advanced practitioners/trainee advanced practitioners in renal transplantation reviewing renal transplant patients in outpatient clinics.
Controlled Document Number:	985
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Controlled Document Sponsor:	Executive Chief Nurse
Controlled Document Lead:	Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation
Approved By:	Executive Chief Nurse Executive Medical Director (or nominated deputy) Associate Director of Nursing, Division B Matron, Renal Medicine Clinical Service Lead, Nephrology
On:	July 2016
Review Date:	June 2017
Distribution:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Reading for: 	All advanced practitioners/trainee advanced practitioners in renal transplantation who undertake review of renal transplant patients in clinic and all advanced practitioners/trainee advanced practitioners in renal transplantation who wish to expand their practice to include this skill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for: 	All clinical staff working in renal outpatients and involved in the care of renal transplant patients.

EVIDENCE FOR PRACTICE

The Renal Association Guidelines for post-operative care of the kidney transplant recipient provide guidance on the organisation of outpatient follow up for patients following renal transplantation (Baker et al, 2011). They identify that all kidney transplant recipients should have access to a senior clinical opinion at renal transplant clinics, mentioning the need for access to a multi-disciplinary team and the role of consultant-level nurses. The Renal Association Guidelines emphasise the importance of having access to an individual with the appropriate knowledge and experience, with the 'exact type of healthcare professional' this individual is, 'not being important'. The Renal Association guidelines also:

- detail the suggested frequency for outpatient follow up,
- emphasise the need for timely review of test results and
- suggest exploring the possible benefit of virtual clinics for some patients.

The Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation, as a practitioner with extensive relevant knowledge and experience, is well placed to review and support patients following renal transplantation, providing holistic patient care including:

- Ongoing review of the patient following renal transplantation and monitoring of renal function and drug therapy, requesting and monitoring blood tests and appropriately interpreting results.
- Patient education and signposting to patient groups, statutory and voluntary agencies.
- Promoting wellbeing and reduction of co-morbidities through health promotion and support with lifestyle interventions such as weight loss and smoking cessation.
- Providing psychosocial support and appropriate referrals to other allied health professionals.

The Advanced Practitioner/trainee Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation will independently review patients in consultant led transplant clinics and in the Renal Transplant Skin Clinic (led by a Dermatologist). Future service developments will enable the Advanced Practitioner/trainee Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation to review patients during annual review clinics, lifestyle intervention clinics and telephone review clinics.

For the purpose of this protocol, the term Registered Nurse refers to an Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation or a trainee Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation.

CONSENT

Although formal written consent is not required for minor procedures, verbal consent for review in clinic by the registered nurse must be obtained where possible and this must be documented in the patient's records. For further information regarding consent and mental capacity please refer to the following documents:

- Department of Health Reference Guide to Consent for Examination or Treatment (2009).
- The Trust's Policy and Procedural document for consent to examination or treatment (current version).
- *Mental Capacity Act (2005)*.

INDICATIONS

Patients being reviewed by the registered nurse in the consultant led outpatient clinic must have undergone renal transplantation.

A nephrology consultant must be available in the outpatient clinic, with the exception of the Skin Clinic where the patient is reviewed in conjunction with a dermatology consultant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Patients under 16 years of age.
2. Patients who have capacity and do not give consent to be reviewed by the registered nurse.

LIMITATIONS TO PRACTICE

1. If the registered nurse is concerned about the patient's condition, depending on the urgency of their concern, either they must immediately refer the patient to the nephrology consultant in clinic or they must discuss the patient with the renal consultant following clinic, for advice on any further action to be taken. This must be documented in the patient's records.
2. If the registered nurse identifies that changes may be required to drug therapy, and he/she is not an independent non-medical prescriber, the patient must be referred to the renal consultant either immediately during the clinic or after the clinic, depending on the urgency for the medication review. As appropriate, the consultant will either write a prescription for the patient or a letter will be sent to the patient's general practitioner with recommendations for medication changes. This must be documented in the patient's records.

3. If the registered nurse identifies that an imaging investigation may be required, and he/she is not competent to refer the patient for the appropriate imaging in accordance with the relevant expanded practice protocol, the patient must be referred to the renal consultant either immediately during the clinic or after the clinic, depending on the clinical need of the patient.

CRITERIA FOR COMPETENCE

1. A registered nurse, with an extensive knowledge of renal transplantation, who has undertaken education and training recognised by the Matron, Renal Medicine. The registered nurse must have or be working towards an accredited Masters level Health Assessment Course within a timescale agreed by the Matron, Renal Medicine.
2. If initiating, making changes to or stopping drug therapy, the registered nurse must be a registered non-medical prescriber listed on the Trust Register of non-medical prescribers. A period of supervised practice must be undertaken by the registered nurse in order to achieve competence in prescribing following renal transplantation, before independent prescribing is approved.
3. If referring for imaging, the registered nurse must provide evidence of competence in accordance with the relevant expanded practice protocols, Expanded Practice Protocol for Referral for Renal Ultra Sound Scan by Registered Nurses, Expanded Practice Protocol for the Referral for Abdominal Ultra Sound Scans by registered nurses and Expanded Practice Protocol for Registered Nurses to act as Referrers for X-ray Examinations (as defined by IR(ME)R 2000).
4. Evidence of satisfactory supervised practice must be provided by the registered nurse as witnessed by a practitioner who is competent in the management of this group of patients (Appendix 1).
5. The number of supervised practices required will reflect the individual registered nurse's learning needs.
6. Evidence of competence must be provided and a copy kept in registered nurse's personal file and in the department where the skill is practised (Appendix 2).
7. Registered nurses new to the Trust, who have been reviewing patients following renal transplantation elsewhere, must read, understand and be signed off against this protocol. Evidence of appropriate education and competence must be provided and checked by the Matron, Renal Medicine, before undertaking this expanded practice at the Trust. The decision whether the registered nurse needs to complete Trust training will be at the discretion of the matron.

8. In accordance with codes of professional practice, the registered nurse has a responsibility to recognise, and to work within, the limits of their competence. In addition, the registered nurse has a responsibility to practise within the boundaries of the current evidence based practice and in line with up to date Trust and national policies and procedural documents. Evidence of continuing professional development and maintenance of skill level will be required and confirmed at the registered nurse's annual appraisal by their line manager.

A list of registered nurses competent to perform this skill must be kept by the line manager.

PROTOCOL AND SKILLS AUDIT

The Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation will lead the audit of the protocol with support from the Practice Development Team. The audit will be undertaken in accordance with the review date, and will include:

- Adherence to the protocol
- Clinical activity (number of patients/clinics)
- Any untoward incidents or complaints
- Review of patient feedback (for example compliments, complaints and PALS contacts)
- Number of registered nurses competent to perform the skill.

All audits must be logged with the Risk and Compliance Unit.

CLINICAL INCIDENT REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT

Any untoward incidents and near misses must be reported via the Trust incident reporting system, and where required escalated to the appropriate management team. In addition, the Risk and Compliance Unit must be notified by telephone of any Serious Incidents (SI).

REFERENCES

Baker, R., Jardine, A. and Andrews, P. (2011) **Post-operative Care of the Kidney Transplant Recipient**. Renal Association.
<http://www.renal.org/guidelines/modules/post-operative-care-of-the-kidney-transplant-recipient#sthash.zYox1gY1.dpbs> [accessed 31.12.15]

Department of Health (2009) **Reference Guide to Consent for Examination or Treatment** 2nd edn. HMSO London

Mental Capacity Act 2005,
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/contents>
[accessed 31.12.2015]

Nursing and Midwifery Council. (2015). **The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives.**

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Nursing and Midwifery Council, London.

<http://www.nmc-uk.org/Documents/NMC-Publications/revised-new-NMC-Code.pdf> [accessed 31.12.15]

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (current version)
Policy for consent to examination or treatment, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

http://uhbpolicies/Microsites/Policies_Procedures/consent-to-examination-or-treatment.htm

[accessed 31.12.15]

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (current version)
Procedure for consent to examination or treatment. Birmingham: University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

http://uhbpolicies/Microsites/Policies_Procedures/consent-to-examination-or-treatment.htm

[accessed 31.12.15]

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (current version)
Working with carers: common core principles, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

<http://uhbhome/working-with-carers-common-core-principles.htm>

[accessed 31.12.15]

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (current version)
Expanded Practice Protocol for the Referral for Abdominal Ultra Sound Scans by registered nurses. Birmingham: University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

<http://uhbpolicies/assets/EppReferralUssRegisteredNurse.pdf>

[accessed 25.05.16]

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (current version)
Expanded Practice Protocol for Registered Nurses to act as Referrers for X-ray Examinations (as defined by IR(ME)R 2000).

Birmingham: University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

<http://uhbpolicies/assets/RegisteredNurseReferrersX-rayProtocol.pdf>

[accessed 25.05.16]

PROTOCOL SUBMISSION DETAILS

Protocol reviewed by:

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12/07/2016

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M. O. Cahill

Date:

7/7/16

Matron, Renal

May Burns

Date:

14th July 2016

Clinical Service Lead, Nephrology

A. San.

Date:

6 July 2016

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EVIDENCE OF SUPERVISED PRACTICE

To become a competent practitioner, it is the responsibility of each Advanced Practitioner/trainee Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation to undertake supervised practice in order to review patients in outpatient clinics following renal transplantation in a safe and skilled manner.

Name of Advanced Practitioner in Renal Transplantation:

DATE	DETAILS	SATISFACTORY STANDARD MET	COMMENTS	PRINT NAME, SIGNATURE & DESIGNATION
		Yes / No		
		Yes / No		
		Yes / No		
		Yes / No		
		Yes / No		
		Yes / No		

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
CRITERIA FOR COMPETENCE

END COMPETENCE: Review of Renal Transplant Patients in Clinic by Advanced Practitioners/Trainee Advanced Practitioners (AP) in Renal Transplantation.

Date(s) of Education and supervised practice:

Name of Registered Nurse (print): **Designation:**.....

Name of supervisor (print): **Designation:**.....

ELEMENT OF COMPETENCE TO BE ACHIEVED	Date Achieved	AP Sign	Supervisor Sign
Discuss and identify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indications • contraindications • limitations to practice for review of renal transplant patients in clinic by an AP/trainee AP in Renal Transplantation according to this expanded practice protocol.			
Demonstrate an extensive knowledge and understanding of renal anatomy and physiology.			
Demonstrate an extensive knowledge and understanding of renal transplantation and management post transplantation.			
Demonstrate an extensive knowledge and understanding of potential complications and morbidities post transplantation, how to identify and action to take.			
If prescribing, provide evidence of completion of the non-medical prescribing course and competencies, and approval from the Trust's Non-medical Prescribing Group to practise.			

ELEMENT OF COMPETENCE TO BE ACHIEVED	Date Achieved	ANP Sign	Supervisor Sign
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of drug therapy used post renal transplantation, monitoring required and known side effects.			
Demonstrate accurate provision of information and education to patients in a way that the patient understands.			
Demonstrate ability to appropriately request investigations (including blood and urine tests), interpret results and take action regarding abnormal results.			
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of complex psychological aspects and how/when to refer for specialist psychological services.			
If referring for chest x-rays, provide evidence of competence in accordance with Expanded Practice Protocol for Registered Nurses to act as Referrers for X-ray Examinations (as defined by IR(ME)R 2000).			
If referring for abdominal ultra sound scans, provide evidence of competence in accordance with Expanded Practice Protocol for the Referral for Abdominal Ultra Sound Scans by Registered Nurses.			
If referring for renal ultra sound scans, provide evidence of competence in accordance with Expanded Practice Protocol for Referral for Renal Ultra Sound Scan by Registered Nurses.			
Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of role of allied health professionals and how/when to refer for specialist input, such as dietetic advice.			

ELEMENT OF COMPETENCE TO BE ACHIEVED	Date Achieved	ANP Sign	Supervisor Sign
Demonstrate knowledge of the impact of lifestyle factors on the health of patients post renal transplantation and interventions to support health promotion.			
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of when to refer back to the Nephrology Consultant.			
Demonstrate knowledge of the normal outpatient follow up for transplant patients and competence in arranging follow up outpatient reviews within timescales appropriate to patients' needs.			
Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Trust's policy for consent to examination or treatment.			
Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act.			
Discuss any health and safety issues in relation to this expanded practice.			
Demonstrate the ability to check the patient's infection status on PICS and practise safe infection prevention and control practices throughout the clinic. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard precautions. 			
Demonstrate accurate record keeping and written communication (including letters to General Practitioners).			
Demonstrate maintenance of the patient's privacy and dignity throughout the clinic.			
Demonstrate a working knowledge of the NMC Code: professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (2015).			

ELEMENT OF COMPETENCE TO BE ACHIEVED	Date Achieved	ANP Sign	Supervisor Sign
Demonstrate involvement of the patient and their families/carers, in decision making about their care and treatment.			
Demonstrate application of the Trust Principles for carers.			
Demonstrate an understanding of the incident reporting process.			
Discuss any health and safety issues in relation to this expanded practice.			
Discuss why it is important to audit the nurse led reviews.			

I declare that I have expanded my knowledge and skills and undertake to practise with accountability for my decisions and actions.

I have read and understood the protocol for review of renal transplant patients in clinic by APs/trainee APs.

Signature of Registered Nurse:.....

Print name:.....

Date:

Designation:.....

I declare that I have supervised this registered nurse and found her/him to be competent as judged by the above criteria.

Signature of Supervisor:

Print name:.....

Date:

Designation:.....

A copy of this record must be placed in the registered nurse's personal file, a copy must be stored in the clinical area by the line manager and a copy can be retained by the individual for their Professional Portfolio.