

Scottish National Advanced Heart Failure Service

The Scottish National Advanced Heart Failure Service is based at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Glasgow and is commissioned by NSD to provide advanced heart failure treatments to the Scottish population. These therapies currently consist of cardiac transplantation as well as recognised mechanical circulatory support (MCS) strategies that are licensed as a “bridge” to transplant. These include veno-arterial extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO) and short-term and long-term ventricular assist devices (VADs).

Who should be considered for referral?

- Any inpatient <65 hospitalised with decompensated heart failure
- Outpatients <65 years with chronic heart failure and:
 - NYHA 3/4 symptoms despite optimal medical & device therapy for heart failure.
 - Recurrent appropriate ICD shocks
 - Worsening end-organ function secondary to HF
 - Increasing frequency of hospitalisations
 - Inability to uptitrate or need to reduce/stop doses of disease modifying therapy

What are contraindications to transplantation?

- BMI > 35
- Age > 65 (not an absolute cut off but extremely rarely done above 65 in UK)
- Active uncontrolled infection
- Active malignancy
- Diabetes mellitus with end organ damage (risk increases with number of organ systems involved)
- Irreversible pulmonary hypertension (however, may be candidate for long-term LVAD as a “bridge to candidacy”)
- Symptomatic peripheral vascular disease
- Active smoking
- Renal impairment - eGFR <40 (unless cardiogenic/iatrogenic)
- Illicit drug use
- Severe osteoporosis
- Cognitive-behavioural disorders
- Repeated non-compliance

MCS referrals for cardiogenic shock

Potentially transplantable patients who are critically ill with cardiogenic shock will be considered for short-term MCS

- Veno-arterial extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (VA-ECMO)
- short-term ventricular assist device (VAD)

As these treatments are licensed as “bridge to transplant” the above contraindications also apply to MCS patients. Additional MCS-specific contraindications include:

- Contraindication to/intolerance of anticoagulation
- Severe aortic regurgitation
- Presence of a metallic aortic valve replacement

The above lists are not exhaustive and we would encourage & welcome direct discussion of any potential referral

How to refer

Phone GJNH switchboard (0141 951 5000) & ask for
page number 0092 (24 hours/7 days per week)