

# Understanding barriers and outcomes of unspecified kidney donation

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<b>Registration date</b> 03/05/2016	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 21/05/2020	<b>Condition category</b> Urological and Genital Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The waiting list for a kidney transplant in the UK includes over 7000 people, and is increasing. The best available treatment for kidney failure is a kidney transplant from a living donor. The donor is usually a friend or relative. In 2006 donation to a stranger (referred to as unspecified altruistic donation) was introduced in the UK. Since then the number of unspecified altruistic donations has increased year on year. In 2012, 60 transplants used kidneys from unspecified altruistic donors, accounting for around 1 in 20 of all kidney transplants from living donors. These donations provide a high quality kidney to patients on the national transplant list and to someone in the paired/pooled scheme who would not otherwise obtain a transplant due to incompatibility with their donor. The number of unspecified altruistic donations varies widely across transplant centres. In 2012, three (out of a total of 23) centres accounted for 45% of all unspecified altruistic donations. There is considerable variation between centres in the proportion of people making contact in order to donate a kidney, who actually proceed to donation. Reasons for this variation are unknown but may include resource issues, concerns regarding an individual's motivations, or that the individual may develop physical or psychological issues after donation. The aim of this study is to perform a comprehensive assessment of the unspecified altruistic donor programme in the UK to explore variation between centres, and identify barriers and facilitators to donation for those that have expressed a willingness to do so.

### Who can participate?

Any adult who contacts a transplant centre to enquire about donating an organ to a stranger.

### What does the study involve?

Potential donors recruited into the study are asked to complete a questionnaire at four time points: one soon after they come forward as a potential donor, one before the donor operation and twice after donation (3 and 12 months after surgery). Those who do not proceed with the donation for whatever reason complete the questionnaires at the same timepoints, in order to understand more about the psychological impact of not proceeding to donation. The local living donor team is also contacted to gather further information about the donation or circumstances of the withdrawal. Three samples of 15 participants (those who donated, those who withdrew from the transplantation proceed and those who were withdrawn from the process) are also

invited to take part in an interview about their experiences that will last up to 90 minutes. The interview is with an experienced researcher and will ideally be face-to face, but may be by telephone or skype.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no direct benefits to participants, although participating will give them the opportunity to contribute to improved understanding of the process of unspecified donation in the UK. There is a risk that some questions that participants are asked may make them upset or distressed, however this is unlikely.

Where is the study run from?

Guys Hospital (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

December 2015 to March 2021

Who is funding the study?

1. National Institute for Health Research (UK)
2. University of Southampton (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Anna Taylor

anna.taylor@nhs.net

## Contact information

**Type(s)**

Public

**Contact name**

Ms Anna Taylor

**Contact details**

Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Renal Offices

6th floor Borough Wing

Great Maze Pond

London

United Kingdom

SE1 9RT

+44 79 3920 7381

anna.taylor@nhs.net

## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**

20571

## Study information

**Scientific Title**

Understanding barriers and outcomes of unspecified (altruistic) kidney donation (BOUnD)

**Study objectives**

The aim of this study is to perform a comprehensive assessment of the unspecified altruistic donor programme in the UK to explore variation between centres, and identify barriers and facilitators to donation for those that have expressed a willingness to do so.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

South Central - Berkshire B Research Ethics Committee, 27/11/2015, ref: 15/SC/0637

**Study design**

Prospective mixed-methods cohort study

**Primary study design**

Observational

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Kidney transplantation

**Interventions**

Focus group:

The Focus Groups represent the smallest aspect of the study and serve to help fine-tune the questionnaire design and interview topic guides. One focus group will involve those that have proceeded to donation with another of those that did not proceed. Participants will be asked about their experience of the donation process and services, barriers and enablers to donation and outcomes from either donating or withdrawing from the process.

Questionnaires:

The questionnaire part of the study will have three research populations on which questionnaire data will be collected at four intervention points (Q1-Q4): baseline, preoperatively and at 3 and 12 months post-donation or withdrawal in the form of a study questionnaire bundle. Additional data (such as gender, age or ethnic group) will be collected at the time of recruitment into the study. Follow up of these individuals will be for 12 months.

Qualitative interviews:

Qualitative interviews will be completed with a sample of 15 donors who completed their donation, 15 who withdrew and 15 who were withdrawn by the transplant team from the process. Participants will be asked about their experience of the donation process and services, barriers and enablers to donation and outcomes from either donating or withdrawing from the process. The interview questions have been informed by our previous grounded qualitative work, focus groups and current research

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Primary outcome(s)**

Physical and mental health-related quality of life is measured at baseline, pre-operatively or at withdrawal, 3 months post donation or withdrawal, 12 months post donation or withdrawal using:  
Mental:

1. Quality of life questionnaire (SF-12)
2. General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7)
3. Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9)
4. Satisfaction With Life Scale
5. Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
6. In house questionnaire

Physical:

NHSBT pre and post donation physiological and clinical outcomes.

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Barriers to donation is measured using qualitative data from interviews and focus groups at baseline, pre-operatively or at withdrawal, 3 months post donation or withdrawal, 12 months post donation or withdrawal
2. Healthcare resource utilisation data is determined using the Client Service Receipt Inventory (CSRI) at baseline, pre-operatively or at withdrawal, 3 months post donation or withdrawal, 12 months post donation or withdrawal

**Completion date**

31/03/2021

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

1. Any individual contacting a transplant centre to enquire about unspecified donation (to a stranger)
2. Those who proceeds beyond the initial phone conversation
3. Able to give informed consent, will be included as the part of the main study group

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

833

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Declining to participate
2. Lacking capacity to provide informed consent
3. Those not eligible to donate in the UK

**Date of first enrolment**

16/12/2015

**Date of final enrolment**

31/01/2020

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

Guys Hospital

Great Maze Pond

London

United Kingdom

SE1 9RT

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/00j161312>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**

Government

**Funder Name**

National Institute for Health Research

**Alternative Name(s)**

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

**Funding Body Type**  
Government organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**  
National government

**Location**  
United Kingdom

**Funder Name**  
University of Southampton

**Alternative Name(s)**  
University of Southampton UK

**Funding Body Type**  
Government organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**  
Universities (academic only)

**Location**  
United Kingdom

## Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

**IPD sharing plan summary**  
Not expected to be made available

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	protocol	21/09/2017	23/07/2019	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes