# Assess if recipient is well enough for the transplant operation and carry out tests



#### **Overview**

This standard is about the judgment of fitness made on the patient's arrival at the transplant centre for the operation, and the tests that need to be carried out to ensure that the decision about the suitability of the organ is based on up-to-date data. The practitioner must also be prepared to deal with the patient's response to a cancellation.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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## Performance criteria

#### You must be able to:

- P1 review medical and renal records, recent admissions and investigations for:
  - P1.1 general fitness (e.g. trends in weight, cardio)
  - P1.2 any change in status since the patient's last transplant assessment/review
- P2 ask the patient about their recent general health, including specific instances of feeling especially well or unwell (e.g. any recent episodes of cardiac/respiratory/infections episodes)
- P3 explain the circumstances in which the procedure may not go ahead and why (e.g. possible cross-match, patient unfit)
- P4 check that routine data is up-to-date (e.g. whether cardiac tests are current)
- P5 obtain current test results where needed (e.g. bloods, cross-match, ECG, chest x-ray, swabs for MRSA)
- P6 examine the patient and look for signs of ill health (e.g. infection, CV, respiratory instability)
- P7 determine risks for the patient in the operation and the short term afterwards
- P8 discuss the decision with the patient (to continue or not) and obtain their understanding and agreement
- P9 arrange for any further tests and treatment prior to the operation (e.g. dialysis)
- P10 reassure the patient where doubts are raised by providing information (e.g. medical explanation, statistics but not simply reassuring noises)
- P11 provide or arrange for an appropriate intervention if the patient experiences distress or exceptional uncertainty (e.g. psychological care, contact with relatives, contact with their living donor)
- P12 explain the reasons if the patient is not well enough, and provide immediate emotional and psychological support and arrange follow-up

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# Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 anatomy and physiology of the human body
- K2 anatomy and physiology of the renal system
- K3 the immune system
- K4 psychological care skills/loss counselling
- K5 medical, physiological and psychological measures and how to obtain them
- K6 where and how to commission tests and measurements
- K7 how to evaluate and weigh evidence of a patient's suitability for the operation and the transplant
- K8 how organs are selected and matched (living and deceased donors)
- K9 objections to transplantation and how to probe underlying thinking and how to counter it
- K10 legal requirements for transplantation (e.g. Human Organ Transplants Act 1989, The Human Organ Transplants [Unrelated Persons] Regulations, 1989)
- K11 best practice guidelines (e.g. British Transplantation Society)
- K12 evidence of beliefs about transplantation among informed and uninformed religious and cultural groups (e.g. typical mistaken beliefs that a religion opposes transplantation, religious pronouncements such as Muslim fatwa in favour of transplantation)
- K13 roles of other members of the multidisciplinary team
- K14 procedures and protocols relating to transplantation for referring and transplant centres
- K15 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language or special needs)
- K16 the importance of establishing rapport and how to do so
- K17 how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K18 the importance of encouraging individuals to ask questions and how to
- K19 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K20 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management and effects on family dynamics
- K21 the principle of confidentiality and what information may be given to whom
- K22 the importance of involving individuals in discussions, and how to do so
- K23 how to negotiate effectively with individuals, families and other professionals
- K24 the principles of evidence-based practice, and how to apply them
- K25 coaching skills

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### **Additional Information**

**External links** 

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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