



SECTION 11

Deceased Organ Transplant Waiting Lists

SUMMARY

This chapter brings together waiting list data for the various organs. This data is not directly collected by ANZOD but has been provided by OrganMatch. In many cases more detailed information is contained in the annual reports of the relevant transplant outcome Registries. There are, however, important general considerations in interpretation of waiting list data.

Contents

- Waiting List Dynamics2
- Kidney Waiting List.....3
- Liver Waiting List3
- Heart Organ Waiting List4
- Lung Organ Waiting List.....4
- Pancreas Waiting List.....4
- Intestine Waiting List5

Suggested Citation

ANZOD Registry. 2022 Annual Report, Section 11: Deceased Organ Transplant Wait List. Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry, Adelaide, Australia. 2022.

Available at: <https://www.anzdata.org.au/report/anzod-annual-report-2020/>

Waiting List Dynamics

There are some important caveats to consider when interpreting the waiting list data presented in this report.

Firstly, waiting list data is not necessarily a good indicator of actual demand for transplantation. Due to the limited availability of organs for transplantations not all people with end stage organ disease are able to be treated with transplantation and therefore each organ waiting list employs criteria for listing in order to prioritise the use of organs. There are many rules guiding eligibility for transplantation. For further information please see the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) website “Organ Allocation Guidelines”. www.tsanz.com.au

Secondly, the reasons for removal from the waiting list also vary. In some cases, an individual may pass away before receiving an organ. In other cases (particularly cardiothoracic and liver waiting lists) they may be removed due to improving health; conversely removal may reflect deteriorating health such that the risks of transplantation outweigh benefits. Data regarding whether these people subsequently return to the waiting list, remain off the list, or die without returning to the list is not available at this stage, consistently across all organs.

Thirdly, the waiting list data refers only to people on the “active” waiting list who would be transplanted immediately if an organ were available. For some organs, there are groups of patients who have been assessed but not yet activated on the waiting list, or who are temporarily removed or made “inactive”. For example, patients may develop a medical problem that makes them temporarily or permanently unfit for transplantation.

Residents of Australia or New Zealand who have transplants performed abroad may not be reported to local transplant outcome Registries and may not impact on the wait list numbers.

For all organs, data is presented in a format, examining the transitions on and off the waiting list over the period of a calendar year. It is possible those removed from the waiting list are subsequently re-listed. For organs that have criteria for urgent transplant (i.e. liver, heart) patients may be placed on the waiting list and removed very quickly and therefore point prevalent numbers do not represent the activity and readers should refer to the “made active” number to get an idea of overall activity.

The data in the tables refer to the lists at 1 January and 31 December of each year.

In the tables presented in this chapter, the rows describe:

- Number on the active list at the beginning of each year
- Number added to the active list during the year - “made active”
- Number removed from the active list during the year
- Number of transplants to people on the waiting list
- Number who died while on the active waiting list
- Number on the active waiting list at the end of the year

Kidney Waiting List

Data for these waiting lists are derived from OrganMatch (OM), combined with material from the ANZDATA Registry. Some people in the deceased donor (DD) kidney waiting lists may receive a kidney from a living donor (LD), though the majority of living kidney donor recipients are not on the waiting lists. A patient is deemed fit for transplantation and activated on the deceased donor transplant list, but a living donor kidney can be made available prior to a deceased donor transplant taking place.

Data is currently only available for Australia. Negotiations are continuing to also include New Zealand data in future reports. Further material is available in the ANZDATA Annual Report at www.anzdata.org.au

Table 11.1 Deceased Donor Kidney Only Waiting List - Stock and Flow, 2016-2021¹

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	1117	1009	1017	1031	1233	1234
	Made active	735	859	905	1194	965	1102
	Taken off list	385	338	341	200	232	207
	Transplant	458	508	541	782	729	681
	Died on list	0	5	9	10	3	5
	Active end of year	1009	1017	1031	1233	1234	1443

¹Data may differ to that previously published as data is updated in subsequent years in OM and ANZDATA

Liver Waiting List

This table includes the waiting lists for both Australia and New Zealand. For liver transplantation, the waiting list is extracted from the Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry (ANZLTR) Annual Report, based on returns from transplanting centres. More detailed analyses can be found in the Report, at <http://www.anzltr.org/>.

Table 11.2 Deceased Donor Liver Waiting List Activity, 2016-2021

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	178	127	137	111	193	161
	Made active	147	172	147	357	263	264
	Taken off list	81	56	77	30	50	39
	Transplant	116	100	88	233	234	212
	Died on List	1	6	8	12	11	24
	Active end of year	127	137	111	193	161	150

Data may differ to that previously published as data is updated in subsequent years in ANZLTR.

The data in tables 11.3 and 11.4 are supplied by OrganMatch only.

Heart Organ Waiting List

Table 11.3 Deceased Donor Heart Waiting List Activity, 2016-2021¹

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	66	59	97	95	85	71
	Made active	106	134	125	132	145	125
	Taken off list	21	24	33	31	13	9
	Transplant	90	64	82	94	142	107
	Died on list	2	8	12	17	4	5
	Active end of year	59	97	95	85	71	75

Lung Organ Waiting List

Table 11.4 Deceased Donor Lung Waiting List Activity, 2016-2021¹

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	126	105	129	129	111	100
	Made active	147	195	200	201	170	191
	Taken off list	63	45	50	49	17	16
	Transplant	104	122	132	150	154	162
	Died on list	1	4	18	20	10	10
	Active end of year	105	129	129	111	100	103

Pancreas Waiting List

Data for the pancreas transplant waiting list is derived from data supplied OrganMatch. It includes both people waiting for a combined kidney-pancreas transplant (the majority) and those waiting for a pancreas transplant alone. It does not include people waiting for pancreas islet cell transplants.

Table 11.5 Deceased Donor Pancreas Transplant Waiting List Activity, 2016-2021

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	64	62	47	30	86	46
	Made active	46	27	26	101	32	70
	Taken off list	30	30	27	13	27	12
	Transplant	18	12	12	29	45	31
	Died on List	0	0	4	3	0	0
	Active end of year	62	47	30	86	46	73

¹Data may differ to that previously published as data is updated in subsequent years in ANZIPTR.

Intestine Waiting List

Data for the intestine transplant waiting list is derived from data supplied by hospitals to the Australian and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry. It includes both people waiting for a combined organ and intestine transplant (the majority) and those waiting for an intestine only transplant.

Table 11.6 Deceased Donor Intestine Waiting List Activity, 2016-2021

	Event	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Australia	Active start of year	5	7	6	2	3	5
	Made active	3	2	0	2	3	4
	Taken off list	0	2	3	1	0	1
	Transplant	1	1	1	0	1	3
	Died on list	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Active end of year	7	6	2	3	5	5