

Increasing transplant listing within the Advanced Kidney Care (AKC) Clinic – a Transform AKC Quality Improvement Project

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Background:

- Transplantation is the gold-standard renal replacement therapy (RRT) for suitable patients¹.
- Suitable patients should be active on the transplant list within 6 months of the anticipated RRT start.
- Discussions around transplantation should start when a patient has an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) of 20ml/min/1.73m².

Aim: at least 25% of AKC patients with an eGFR <15ml/min/1.73m² on a potential transplant listing pathway* to be active on the transplant list by March 2026.

*excluding Conservative Management [CM] patients and those permanently unsuitable for transplantation

Quality Improvement Methodology:

- We started our project in October 2024.
- March 2025: process-mapping our transplant assessment pathway. We outlined key steps, highlighted problems, and identified potential change ideas. Engaged with key stakeholders, including our local kidney patient association.
- Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle approach to our tests of change.
- Monthly data collection of (1) transplant status, (2) referrals for transplant assessment, and (3) activation on transplant waiting list.

Change ideas:

- 1 Accurate recording of transplant status on renal EPR (Nov. 2024)
- 2 Revise categories for transplant status field on renal EPR (Feb. 2025)
- 3 Create concise local guide for transplant referral process (July 2025)
- 4 Set up renal weight management service (Oct. 2025)
- 5 Patient education events (Feb. and Oct. 2025)
- 6 Cards to promote Living Kidney Donation (LKD) discussion (Jan. 2025)

Results:

- **Improved data accuracy in recording transplant status** on renal electronic patient record (EPR). The completeness of transplant status recording for AKC patients with eGFR <20ml/min/1.73m² rose from 45.1% to 90.7%, and maintained at >80% for 9 months (Fig. 1).
- **Increase in percentage of AKC patients active on the transplant waiting list.** There was a rise in the percentage of AKC patients with eGFR <15ml/min/1.73m² on a potential transplant listing pathway and active on the waiting list from 9.8% to 16.4% (Fig. 2).
- **Increase in number of AKC patients referred for transplant assessment** (Fig. 3). There were 142 new referrals from AKC for transplant assessment in 2025, compared to 146 referrals in the preceding 3 years combined.

Fig. 1: Percentage of AKC patients with eGFR <20ml/min/1.73m² (excl. CM) with transplant status recorded. Dotted line marks 80%. Arrows show change ideas.

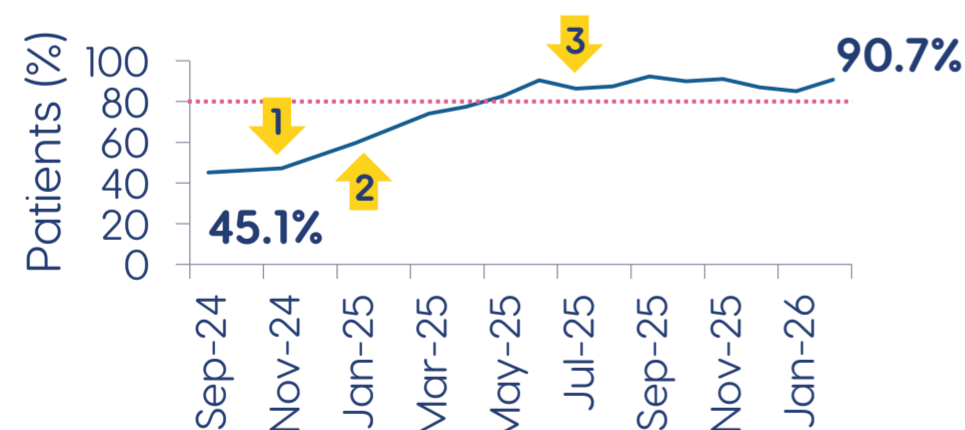


Fig. 2: Percentage of AKC patients with eGFR <15ml/min/1.73m² on a potential transplant listing pathway that are active on the transplant waiting list. Median value (11.7%) represented by dotted line. Arrows show change ideas.

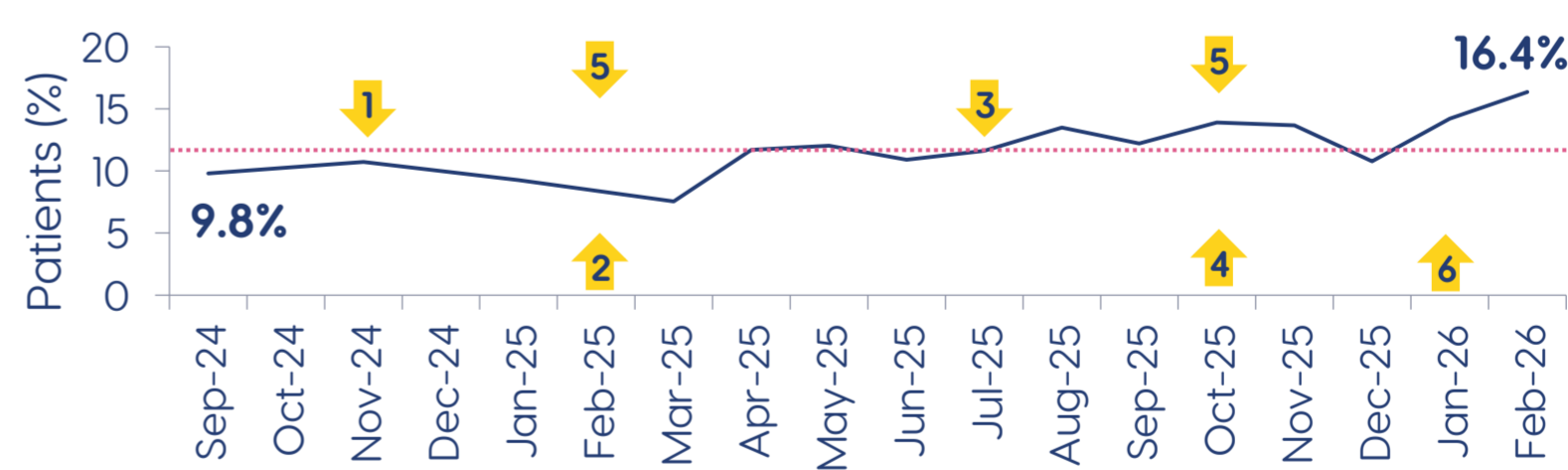
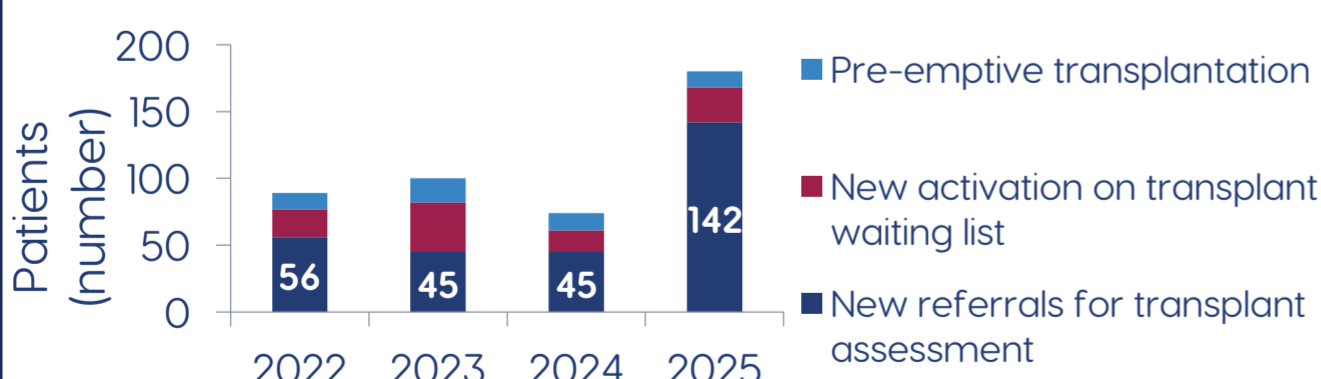
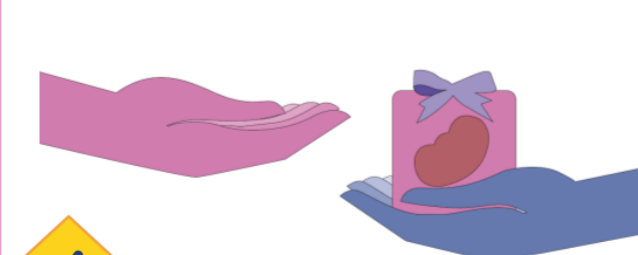


Fig. 3: Number of AKC patients referred for transplant assessment, activated on waiting list, and receiving pre-emptive transplantation



Cards to promote LKD discussion

I have something to ask...



I've been told by my doctors that I need a kidney transplant as I have kidney failure. I could wait to receive a kidney from someone who has died, but this may take years and while I wait I will need to have dialysis to keep me alive.

Receiving a kidney from a living donor would mean I could avoid dialysis and be fit and healthy for many years.

To be a living kidney donor you need to be in general good health but can still donate if you have certain medical conditions.

You don't need to be related to me or have the same blood group - there are ways round this now.

After donation people just need to lead a healthy lifestyle and are seen yearly by the kidney team to ensure their wellbeing.

Would you consider being a living donor for me?

If you are interested you can find more information at www.donateakidney.co.uk, or scan the QR code.

If after reading this information you would like to talk to the Living Donor team, please contact:

01438 285466 (Monday - Friday 8:30am - 1pm), or email livedonor@nhs.uk or livedonor@nhs.uk or scan the QR code.

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Discussion: We have doubled the number with a documented transplant status, seen a 3-fold increase in new referrals for transplant assessment, and increased the proportion active on the transplant list from 9.8% to 16.4%. We have reset the completion date for our target aim to 31/12/2027. Our next change ideas focus on (1) developing our weight management service for those needing to lose weight for transplant listing, (2) earlier requesting of investigations by clinicians, and (3) minimising delay to transplant listing for cardiology reasons.

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Reference: ¹ NHS England. (2017). Transplant First: Timely Listing for Kidney Transplantation. Available from NHS England [Accessed 2025, September 14].