

### Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? (Underline or Circle)  
Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle)  
What is **official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service** (if any)?

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Beaumont Hospital/Dublin (BH) and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCCT) and the Health Service Executive (HSE – funding only) for the provision of living donor exchange kidney transplant service (plus data sharing agreement).

The MoU aims to ensure that the required key elements, commitments and responsibilities of all parties are defined and in place so as to ensure the provision of an exchange kidney transplantation service in the Belfast City Hospital in accordance with best practice and the relevant EU Directives and Regulations. The data sharing agreement (approved by the BHSCCT Information Governance Manager) aims to ensure the secure, correct and lawful processing of the shared data agreed to by the parties.

The BHSCCT will initially consider live donor nephrectomy and transplantation for donor and recipient pairs for whom entry into the UK Living Kidney Sharing Scheme (UKLKSS) is appropriate and in exceptional cases where transplant suitability for either donor or recipient is equivocal and a second opinion would be valued.

In all cases donors and recipients will be referred by BH to the BHSCCT only where there is capacity to complete the surgery within BHSCCT. Any increase in the cohort of transplants being managed by the BHSCCT will be in the context of sufficient capacity to meet demand from ROI without compromise to the patients of NI.

It is anticipated that the scheme will start in line with the October 2019 living donor kidney matching run.

The MoU and data sharing agreement detail the responsibilities of BHSCCT staff and will be disseminated through management to all key areas i.e. Nephrology and Transplant, Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics, Theatres, Transport Services and will be available via the Belfast Trust's Intranet.

1D. **What definition of 'rural' is the Trust using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:**

Rural is classified by those settlements with populations of less than 5,000 together with the open countryside.

**Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes  No  If response is NO Go To Section 2E.

2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently?

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	Community Safety or Rural Crime	Agriculture-Environment
Education or Training in Rural Areas	Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	Other, please state below;
Rural Development	Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas	Rural Business, Tourism or Housing	

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

In order to participate in the UKLKSS patients must be registered at a UK centre. Renal patients from the ROI are currently enrolled on the UKLKSS, with routine matched patients receiving surgery in Coventry and more complex patients travelling to London. The MoU will result in ROI renal patients enrolled under the UKLKSS having surgery in Belfast (where there is sufficient capacity to do so). BHSCT is the regional centre for renal transplant in NI.

In terms of NI kidney recipients, the impact will be positive, irrespective of whether the patient lives in an urban/rural location, as they will have greater access to kidneys and will be less likely to wait for surgery as a result of the MoU. It has not been possible to source the postcodes (and subsequently whether they live in a rural or urban area) of NI patients currently waiting on the UKLKSS and therefore.

In terms of ROI kidney recipients, the impact will also be positive, irrespective of whether the patient lives in an urban/rural location, as they will also have greater access to kidneys and will be less likely to wait as a result of the MoU. In addition, as ROI patients (donors and recipients) on the UKLKSS currently have to travel to England for surgery, the MoU also has the potential to enhance the patient experience by reducing the inconvenience associated with travel to the surgical centre (it is anticipated that BHSCT would be more convenient for most ROI patients and families to travel to irrespective of whether they live in a rural/urban location) and improving access for family and friends to visit. It has not been possible to source the postcodes (and subsequently whether they live in a rural or urban area) of ROI patients currently waiting on the UKLKSS.

If you completed 2E above GO TO Section 6

**SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or

Public Service? Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D

3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs?

Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods.  
Please provide details:

3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?

3D. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

### SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

### SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified?

Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?

5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

There is no differential impact between rural and urban areas to influence this policy.

### Section 6: Documentation:

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: Anne Flynn

Job Title/Directorate Service Improvement Manager, Cancer and Specialist Services

Signature: *A. Flynn*

Date: 13.8.19

Approved by: *Gilbert Mous*

Job Title/Directorate *Co Director, Cancer and Specialist Medicine*

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 14/8/19

