

**Dr. John Scoble,
Guy's and St. Thomas' Foundation Trust.**

What does the 18-week pathway bring to transplantation?

The NHS in England has dramatically changed with the advent of the Cancer waiting time and 18-week initiatives. Trusts are firmly performance managed on these metrics with data sent to the Department of Health. With suspected cancer or straightforward procedures such as hip replacement it has been easy to measure this process in terms of clock starts and clock stops. The process of delivery of kidney care has been seen as complex and the clock stops and starts less clearly, as for many patients, the treatment is a continuous process over many years.

The 18-week pathway for living donation acts as a supplementary one to the 18-week pathway for chronic kidney disease. It defines the process in a clear form. The issues that have been found in other pathways such as cancer with complex handovers between hospitals when individuals are referred to transplant centres will need to be addressed.

It is hoped that the anecdotal work up times of over a year for kidney donors will become myth in the future. When potential donors have made their brave decisions to donate the NHS in England through patient choice and the application of the 18-week pathway should be able to offer choice and timely care.