

Virtual Crossmatch Newsletter No. 8



An update from The Virtual Crossmatch (VXM) Working Group

In February 2023, complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) crossmatches to determine compatibility between organ donor and transplant recipients were ceased across Australia. The Virtual Crossmatch was implemented for all solid organ transplant programs. This is now business as usual across the country. Thank you to all who were involved in the project and its implementation.

The transition has been well received across the transplantation and donation sectors. There have been no adverse events reported to date. Close monitoring of transplant events is undertaken and we encourage all units to report any potential issues via the VSEAC process. Additionally, rejection episodes may be added into the recipient record in OrganMatch via the Transplantation portal. This will assist future data analysis.

In OrganMatch, the readiness criteria requires a patient to have an HLA antibody screening result within the previous 100 days to be eligible for matching. After consultation with the different solid organ transplant advisory groups, this duration will be increased to 120 days on the 4th December 2023, allowing more flexibility for patients to meet the testing criteria.

Histocompatibility Guidelines version 1

The Histocompatibility Guideline will be ready in early 2024. They are in the final stages of review. Once complete they will be available on the TSANZ website.

Further information

Further resources on the transition to VXM project can be found on the OrganMatch [website](#). This includes:

- ▶ Previous VXM project newsletters
- ▶ VXM glossary of terms and;
- ▶ VXM frequently asked questions

A patient's HLA antibody screening must have occurred within 120 days to be included in matching. An alert will be sent to the transplant unit at 100 days to inform clinical teams that a repeat serum sample is required. The number of days since the most recent serum testing date is also now displayed on organ offer lists.

There is no change to the recommendation that it is optimal for all waitlisted patients to be screened every three months.

If no result is available by 120 days, the patient will automatically move to 'not ready' and will not be available for matching. A sample must be received by the laboratory and testing completed as per the current process to return to the 'ready' status.

The extended time frame was a recommendation from the TSANZ – Virtual Crossmatch Committee and endorsed by the Transplant Advisory Committees.

Virtual crossmatching elearning is also available through the Lifeblood transfusion online learning [site](#).

Further information or questions please contact projects@tsanz.com.au.