

## Information for participants.

Dear Sir, Madam,

We would kindly ask you to participate in a scientific research. The title of this research project is: "Isolation measurements applied after solid organ transplantation: a national and international comparison". May we kindly ask you to read the following information carefully?

As you already know, organ transplantation is an established and acceptable therapeutic option for select patients with end-stage organ disease. Organ transplantation has increased the last decades and new developments in the medical technology have considerably increased the survival rate. Although organ transplantation is successful, the care after transplantation differs by transplant center. For instance, the protective measures applied after transplantation to prevent infection. Unfortunately, there are no state of the art guidelines available on protective procedures after organ transplantation. Moreover, with the upcoming new immunosuppressive agent and antibiotics the question arises whether all these measures are indeed necessary and efficient.

Therefore, the aim of this research project is to examine the isolation measures that are applied by health care workers in patients after organ transplantation. Both Belgian and international transplant centers are involved in this research.

For the purpose of this project, we developed a questionnaire based on the poor literature and expert's experience. May we kindly ask you to fill in this questionnaire; it should take you maximum 10 minutes. If you are operative on a unit for adults and pediatrics, or at a unit with different types of organs, may we kindly ask you to fill in several questionnaires? We really appreciate your contribution and involvement and therefore ask you to submit your questionnaire by March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

This research received a positive approval of the Ethical Commission of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Your participation is entirely voluntary and your information will be processed anonymously.

The research is conducted by two master students in nursing and midwifery of the Catholic University of Leuven, under supervision of Prof. Dr. Johan Vanhaecke (head of heart transplantation) and Ms Sandra Martin, clinical nurse specialist in heart transplantation.

Should you have any protocol that you apply in the care of solid organ transplant patients, we would be very grateful if you could send us a copy mentioning the date of its last update. For privacy reasons you can obviously send us this copy without any center.

We will not keep record of any email addresses used to send us any information.

Feel free to contact the following persons for any further question:

1. Ms Ellen Van Haegenbergh, master student  
E-mail: ellen.vanhaegenbergh@student.kuleuven.be
2. Ms Natalie Van den Driessche, master student  
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We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and are hoping for a positive response.

Kind regards,

Natalie Van den Driessche and Ellen Van Haegenbergh  
*Master students in Nursing and Midwifery*

Questionnaire

Isolation measurements applied after solid organ transplantation: a national and international comparison.

To be able to make a comparison between organ transplant centers and countries, may we kindly ask you to fill in the following center specific questions?

1. In which transplantation center are you working?

a) Country:

í í

b) Hospital:

í í

2. On which unit are you working?

- Intensive care unit
- Hospitalization unit
- Outpatient unit
- Other: í .

3. What type of organ transplant patients do you care for in your current practice?  
(Check all that apply)

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Heart      | <input type="radio"/> Liver     |
| <input type="radio"/> Heart/lung | <input type="radio"/> Kidney    |
| <input type="radio"/> Lung       | <input type="radio"/> Intestine |
| <input type="radio"/> Pancreas   | <input type="radio"/> Islet     |

If you are responsible for different organs, may we kindly ask you to fill in a questionnaire per organ?

4. How many solid organ transplantations are performed annually?

í í

5. What is your current function?

- Registered nurse
- Nurse practitioner
- Clinical nurse specialist
- Advanced practice nurse
- Head nurse
- Transplant coordinator
- Other:.....  
.....

6. Are you working with adult patients or/and pediatric patients?

- Only pediatric patients
- Only adult patients
- Pediatric patients and adult patients  
(May we kindly ask you to fill in 2 questionnaires, one for adults and one for pediatrics?)

7. What is the mix of patients at your unit?

- Only patients who received organ transplantation
- Transplant patients and other patients
- Other: í

8. What is the number of beds on your unit?

í í

9. How many FTE (full-time equivalent) are working at your unit?

í ...

10. How many nurses are working at the same time at your unit?

a) During a morning shift:

- < 3
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- > 6

b) During an evening shift:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> < 3 | <input type="radio"/> 5   |
| <input type="radio"/> 3   | <input type="radio"/> 6   |
| <input type="radio"/> 4   | <input type="radio"/> > 6 |

c) During the night:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> < 3 | <input type="radio"/> 5   |
| <input type="radio"/> 3   | <input type="radio"/> 6   |
| <input type="radio"/> 4   | <input type="radio"/> > 6 |

11. What is the average survival rate one year after transplantation at your center?

- 0% - 25%
- 26% - 50%
- 51% - 75%
- 75% - 100%

12. What is the average survival rate five years after transplantation at your center?

- 0% - 25%
- 26% - 50%
- 51% - 75%
- 75% - 100%

13. What is the average survival rate ten years after transplantation at your center?

- 0% - 25%
- 26% - 50%
- 51% - 75%
- 75% - 100%

14. What is the average hospitalization time of patients after transplantation at your unit?

- 1 - 7 days
- 8 - 14 days
- 15 - 21 days
- > 21 days

The following questions are specific on isolation procedures that are applied in your transplant center.

15. What precautions are taken at your transplant unit for patients who received organ transplantation? (Check all that apply)

- None
- Private room
- Room with positive pressure
- Room with an ante room
- Wearing gloves
- Wearing shoe covers
- Wearing a gown
- Wearing a mask
- Hand alcohol
- Hand washing with plain soap and water
- Other:.....  
.....  
.....

16. Is the number of white blood cells taken into account for the isolation policy?  
If yes, what isolation precautions are taken at your unit for patients with white blood cells lower than  $1,5 \times 10^9/l$ . If the number of white blood cells isn't taken into account for the isolation policy, please go further to question 17. (Check all that apply)

- None
- Private room
- Room with positive pressure
- Room with an ante room
- Wearing gloves
- Wearing shoe covers
- Wearing a gown
- Wearing a mask
- Hand alcohol
- Hand washing with plain soap and water
- Other:.....  
.....  
.....

17. How long do you apply these precautions?

- During the hospitalization stay: from admission until discharge
- Only the first week after the transplantation
- Other:.....

18. Are the precautions for visitors, nurses, doctors indicated on the door of the room before entrance of the room?

- Yes
- No

19. Is there air-conditioning in the room?

- Yes
- No

20. Is there air-filtration in the room?

- Yes
- No

21. Are there specific precautions taken concerning drinking water administered to transplant patients?

- None
- Bottled water
- Plain tap water
- Filtered tap water

22. What precautions are taken concerning the food that the transplant patient is allowed to eat?

- None.
- Nutrition low in germ during the hospitalization
- Nutrition low in germ during 6 months

23. What precautions are taken concerning equipment used for different patients? (Blood pressure meter, thermometer )? (Check all that apply)

- None.
- These are cleaned
- These are disinfected
- These are sterilized
- These must be new (never used)

24. What precautions are taken concerning the personal clothing of the patient?

- None
- The patient can only wear hospital clothes
- The patient can only wear new clothes
- The patient can only wear clothes washed on more than 60° Celsius/  
140°Fahrenheit
- Other:í ..

25. What precautions are taken concerning magazines and newspapers that enter the room?

- None
- Only new magazines, newspapersí
- Other:í ..

26. What precautions are taken in relation to personal items like mobile phones, personal computersí in the room?

- None
- These items are not allowed in the room
- These items are allowed in the room after disinfection
- Other:í ..

27. Are plants and flowers allowed in the room?

- Yes
- Not allowed
- Other:í ..

28. Who is not allowed to enter the room?

- Children younger than 6 years
- Children younger than 12 years
- People who have an infection (skin infection, pulmonary infection,í )
- Everybody is allowed to enter the room

29. What precautions are taken for visitors of transplant patients?

- None
- Wearing gloves
- Wearing shoe covers
- Wearing a gown
- Wearing a mask
- Hand alcohol
- Hand washing with plain soap and water
- Other: í ..

30. How is the room prepared in advance to the admission?

- None
- The room is cleaned
- The room is disinfected
- Other: í ..

31. How many times per week is the room cleaned?

- More than once a day
- Daily
- Every 2 days
- Weekly
- Other: í .....

32. Which product is used to clean the room?

í ..

33. How many times per week is the room disinfected?

- More than once a day
- Daily
- Every 2 days
- Weekly
- Other: í .....

34. Which product is used to disinfect the room?

í í í í ..í ..

35. Are there specific precautions taken when the patient leaves the room during his/her stay? (Check all that apply)

- None
- The patient wears a gown
- The patient wears gloves
- The patient wears a mask
- The patient never leaves the room
- Other: í

36. Are there specific precautions taken concerning the wheel chair, bed when the patient leaves the room during his/her stay? (Check all that apply)

- None
- The wheel chair is cleaned and covered before the patient is seated
- The bed is covered when patient leaves the room lying in the bed
- Other: í

37. Does the staff who accompanies the patient during transport to examination take any precautions? (Check all that apply)

- None
- The person who transports the patient wears a gown
- The person who transports the patient wears gloves
- The person who transports the patient wears a mask
- Other: í

Thank you for your participation and involvement in this study.