

17 July 2020

**To:** South London cardiologists

**From:** Mr Vassilios Avlonitis, Clinical Lead, Cardiac Surgery, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital  
Mr Max Baghai, Clinical Lead, Cardiac Surgery, King's College Hospital  
Mr Steve Livesey, Associate Medical Director, Cardiac Surgery, St George's Hospital

**RE: South London cardiac surgery inter hospital transfers, aortic dissection referrals, and virtual MDTs**

Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, the pan-London plan for cardiac surgery since the COVID-19 pandemic included that inter hospital transfers (IHTs) for cardiac surgery and aortic dissection referrals were diverted to Bart's and Harefield hospitals. **As we resume our services, we are pleased to announce we have reinstated and established the following:**

**1. Inter hospital transfers for cardiac surgery to King's College, St Thomas' and St George's hospitals**

IHT patients should be referred to your usual local cardiac centre via the Teleologic IHT system (<https://nww.ihtl.nhs.uk/lscn/>). A COVID-19 test must be undertaken before transfer for surgery can take place. Referrals will be assessed and triaged in the normal manner.

**2. King's College / St Thomas' hospitals rota for aortic dissection surgery**

The [on call rota for aortic dissection](#) is attached to this email, covering July through December. Where St Thomas' Hospital is on call for dissections, most dissection referrals for surgery will be accommodated. Where King's College Hospital is on call for dissections, the on call surgeon will triage and accept referrals according to capacity. If necessary, certain dissections may be diverted to Bart's.

**3. Online MDT meetings**

During this time, we have also converted our multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings to an online platform. Colleagues from south London, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex are invited to participate. A [published timetable of daily meetings](#) is available on the network website, with contact details for joining each MDT meeting. These changes have allowed us to optimise clinical time, as well as ensuring our patients receive fast and equitable access to specialist care and decision making.

We are confident that these changes will allow us to treat patients efficiently and expertly as we resume our services. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any specific queries.

Kind regards,

**Mr Max Baghai**  
Clinical Lead  
Cardiac Surgery  
King's College Hospital

**Mr Vassilios Avlonitis**  
Clinical Lead  
Cardiac Surgery  
Guy's and St Thomas'  
Hospital

**Mr Steve Livesey**  
Associate Medical Director  
Cardiac Surgery  
St George's Hospital