



PITHIA

NHS

Blood and Transplant

Collection of PITHIA Samples by NORS Team

Pre-Implantation Trial of Histopathology In renal Allografts

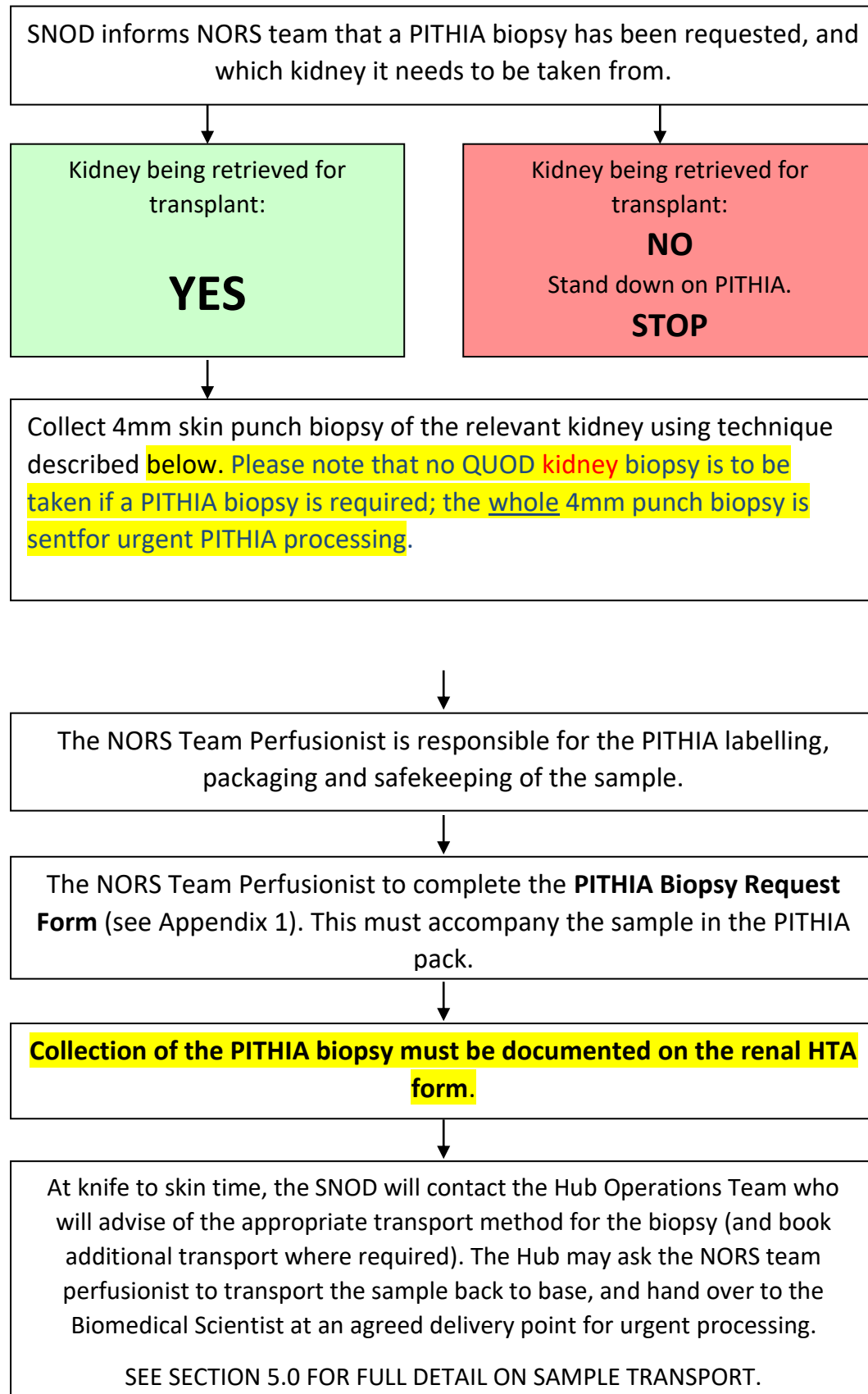


Table of Contents

	PITHIA Flowchart – for NORS Teams	3
1.0	Notification that a PITHIA sample is required	4
2.0	Identification of correct kidney (left / right) to biopsy	4
3.0	Collecting the PITHIA sample	4
4.0	Labelling and Packaging	5
5.0	Transport of the Sample	6
6.0	Supply of PITHIA Packs	7
	APPENDIX 1 – PITHIA BIOPSY REQUEST FORM	8



PITHIA Flowchart – for NORS Teams





1.0 Notification that a PITHIA sample is required

If the recipient centre has requested a PITHIA biopsy, the Hub Operations Team will communicate this to the on-call SNOD. No additional donor consent is required for PITHIA. There is no requirement for the donor hospital to be a QUOD supporting hospital to participate in sample removal for PITHIA.

PITHIA samples are only for DBD/DCD donors aged ≥ 60 years. The Hub Operations team will screen each biopsy request against donor age.

2.0 Identification of correct kidney (left / right) to biopsy

It has been agreed by the Kidney Advisory Group (KAG, NHS Blood and Transplant) that (*for most cases*), the allocation of the left / right kidney will be known in advance of retrieval. The left kidney will be allocated to the centre with the highest ranking patient.

This will be communicated to the on-call SNOD by the Hub Operations Team. It is imperative that the relevant kidney is biopsied for PITHIA (the kidney which is going to the centre requesting the biopsy).

Therefore, in cases where QUOD biopsies are not being performed, it may be that only one of the donor kidneys needs to be biopsied. Please contact the Hub Operations Team if there is any uncertainty.

3.0 Collecting the PITHIA sample

The PITHIA sample should be collected using the following kidney biopsy technique:

The following guidance should also be considered:

- The biopsy should be performed from the upper pole of the kidney, using a 4mm skin punch biopsy (depth 8mm). The biopsy is advanced in a circular motion to its “hilt”. This will define a core which is 8mm in depth. Please retain any psoas muscle retrieved attached to the aortic patch with the



kidney – this can be used at the implanting centre for the muscle plug of the biopsy site.

- Remove the biopsy by grasping at its base (i.e. near the cortico-medullary junction) with a pair of forceps, and transecting **as close to the base as possible** with a pair of dissecting scissors. The aim is to remove a core that is 8mm in depth – this will provide sufficient glomeruli for accurate biopsy assessment. **We find this easiest to achieve with fine forceps and dissecting scissors.**
- **Please note that there is now no requirement to close the biopsy site** – simply place the biopsy in the pre-filled formalin pot which is included in the PITHIA pack. Ensure that the sample(s) is fully immersed in the formalin, to aid fixation. **As mentioned above, please retain any psoas muscle that is attached to the aortic patch.**
- **The biopsy must be documented: on the HTA-A (renal) form, and the Biopsy Request Form (in PITHIA pack) must be completed – see Appendix 1.**
- A reminder that any biopsy-related complications must be reported to NHS Blood and Transplant as per standard practice:
<https://safe.nhsbt.nhs.uk/IncidentSubmission/Pages/IncidentSubmissionForm.aspx>

4.0 Labelling and Packaging

Sample labels will be provided in the PITHIA packs - each sample must be labelled with a minimum of three points of donor-identifiable data.

The biopsy (in labelled formalin tub), must be packed in the PITHIA pack along with the completed Biopsy Request Form.



5.0 Transport of the Sample

At the point of knife to skin, the SNOD will phone the Hub Operations Team, who will advise on the appropriate method of transporting the PITHIA biopsy to one of the six centres. The six centres with the ability to process the urgent PITHIA samples are:

- Addenbrooke's Hospital (Cambridge)
- University Hospitals Birmingham
- Royal Free Hospital (London)
- St James' University Hospital (Leeds)
- Royal Victoria Infirmary (Newcastle)
- Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

The Hub will either book independent transport (via TNT) for the sample, or:

- advise that the sample is sent with one of the retrieved organs



- advise that the sample should return to base with the NORS team. **The sample should be taken to the laboratory by the NORS team perfusionist. This must not delay the NORS team member should they be required to mobilise to a further retrieval. The sample must be handed over to the Biomedical Scientist at the agreed delivery point (the laboratory will be aware of the incoming sample - the Hub Operations Team will contact them once the kidney anatomy has been provided to them by the SNOD). The sample must not be left at the recipient centre with an accompanying organ for transplant.**

Please indicate the transport details by completing the relevant fields on the PITHIA Biopsy Request Form.

If the NORS team departs before the PITHIA sample transport arrives, handover the packaged and labelled sample to the SNOD for safe keeping.

Note: in certain circumstances (e.g. Biomedical Scientist not contactable, kidneys are deemed untransplantable in theatre), PITHIA may be stood down. If the PITHIA sample has already been taken it should be disposed of as per local hospital policy. This will be cascaded to the Recipient centre and BMS by Hub Operations.

6.0 Supply of PITHIA Packs

Please carry PITHIA packs to each retrieval – a PITHIA request may not always be known prior to mobilisation but will be communicated to you by the on-call SNOD as soon as possible.

The trial team will periodically replenish each NORS team's stock of PITHIA biopsy packs. If you are running low, please email PITHIA@nhsbt.nhs.uk and more will be sent to you.

For PITHIA queries, please contact:

emma.laing@nhsbt.nhs.uk

01223 588091 / 07471 147868



APPENDIX 1 – PITHIA BIOPSY REQUEST FORM

PITHIA BIOPSY REQUEST FORM_v1.3_2018_12_03



PITHIA – BIOPSY REQUEST FORM

NHSBT HUB CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 0117 975 7580

Email: odthub.operations@nhsbt.nhs.uk



THIS FORM MUST BE SENT WITH THE PITHIA BIOPSY

RETRIEVING NORS TEAM		REQUESTING CENTRE	
NORS Team: NORS Surgeon Contact Name: Telephone: SNOD Contact Name: Telephone:		Recipient Centre:	
DONOR		SPECIMEN	
ODT Number: Left / Right Kidney: NHS/CHI Number: Donor Name: Date of Birth: Donor Hospital: Donor Type: <input type="checkbox"/> DBD <input type="checkbox"/> DCD		Specimen type: Date taken: Time taken: Time in formalin:	
DONOR CLINICAL DETAILS			
Relevant Past Medical History: <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension <input type="checkbox"/> Other: specify Cause of Death: Latest creatinine result: Intra-operative findings (if relevant):			
BIOPSY TRAVEL (DISCUSS WITH NHSBT HUB)			
<input type="checkbox"/> With NORS team to base (if scanner centre) <input type="checkbox"/> With a retrieved abdominal organ <input type="checkbox"/> Independent transport required (TNT) Scanner Centre (select): <input type="checkbox"/> Cambridge <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Edinburgh <input type="checkbox"/> Leeds <input type="checkbox"/> Newcastle <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Free, London			
TO BE COMPLETED BY SCANNER CENTRE ON RECEIPT OF SAMPLE			
Time Received: Histopathology number: BMS Contact Name: Telephone:		Please send this form to the on-call Histopathologist, and complete the details below: On-Call Histopathologist Name: Telephone: Email:	
<i>On-call Histopathologist rota can be found at www.pithia.org.uk or by contacting the Hub.</i>			

IMPORTANT NOTE for Histopathologist:

Should the biopsy identify pathology that is, or may be, relevant for the health or future health of the transplant recipient(s) please contact the Hub Operations as a matter of urgency on 0117 975 7580.