Scottish Renal Registry
Report on COVID-19
As at 31 May 2020
A Management Information publication for Scotland

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About this release
This is the first release by Public Health Scotland on data from the Scottish Renal Registry (SRR) relating to patients who are receiving Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) for end stage renal disease (ESRD) with a positive test of COVID-19.

Main Points
As at 31 May 2020

- During the period 01 March 2020 to 31 May 2020 a total of 110 patients receiving RRT in Scotland had a positive COVID-19 test. This represents 2% of the total RRT population in Scotland.
- The peak period of positive COVID-19 tests among RRT patients was between week beginning 30 March 2020 and 06 April 2020.

The highest number of positive COVID-19 tests was among patients receiving haemodialysis, those aged between 44-74 and those living in more socially deprived areas.

As of 31 May 2020, 31 patients on RRT had died after a confirmed positive COVID-19 test (28.2% of those testing positive).

Survival at 30- days after the first positive COVID-19 test was estimated as 78.0%.
Background
The Scottish Renal Registry is a national registry of all patients in Scotland receiving Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT), including haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis and transplants, for end stage renal disease (ESRD). It was established in 1991 with data backfilled to 1960 from the European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) with the first patient dialysed for ESRD in Scotland in 1960.

Patients who are receiving dialysis or have a kidney transplant are a vulnerable population. Patients receiving dialysis are generally older with other health conditions. The majority of these patients require to attend a healthcare facility on a regular basis, which further increases their risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Patients who have a kidney transplant are presumed to be at high risk as they have a suppressed immune system from the medications they are on for their transplant.

The first case of SARS-CoV-2 infection in Scotland was confirmed on the 1st March 2020. On the 24th March, as part of the Scottish Government response to the pandemic, certain groups of patients were identified as the most vulnerable to developing severe illness and advised to “shield”. This meant that these groups of patients were advised to remain at home and minimise all non-essential contact with other members of their household. This category included the renal transplant population from the outset and latterly all dialysis patients were added. This posed significant challenges to renal units across the country in delivering care to these patients whilst minimising risk of exposure and preventing transmission of infection to these vulnerable patient groups.

Contact
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Further Information
Further information is available from the SRR website and from the full report available on the PHS website.

The next release of this publication will be on an ad hoc basis.

PHS and Official Statistics
Public Health Scotland (PHS) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. PHS is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further information about our statistics.