**Lipid clinic and lipoprotein disorders service (COVID-19)\***

**Document 1: Lipoprotein apheresis/Plasma exchange**

Criteria for referral for Lipoprotein apheresis:

* Homozygous FH patients (HoFH)
* Heterozygous FH (HeFH) patients and patients and other forms of severe hypercholesterolaemia with progressive coronary heart disease and an LDL cholesterol level which remains >5.0mmol/L.
* An adjunct to diet and lipid lowering therapy.

Procedure for Lipoprotein apheresis:

* Criteria met and referral sent to Consultant in Transplantation & General Surgery for consideration of fistula formation.
* Patients attend CAPD or Haematology day case either weekly or fortnightly.
* Pre- treatment bloods at each visit: lipid profile (at a minimum)
* Post- treatment bloods at each visit: lipid profile (at a minimum)
* 6 monthly bloods: lipid profile, renal profile, liver profile, bone profile, vitamin b12, folate, ferritin, iron profile, vitamin D, vitamin A+E, copper, zinc, HbA1c, coagulation profile, full blood count and lipoprotein (a).
* For HoFH patients: if not on Lomitapide treatment already, the team can consider Lomitapide treatment with or if lipoprotein apheresis/plasma exchange is not possible based on individual case assessment and feasibility of pre-Lomitapide treatment assessments, dietary advice/compliance, patient engagement and monitoring. This is provided no contra-indications for Lomitapide treatment. Flexibility in pre-Lomitapide assessment should be individualised taking in consideration risks and benefits (please see document 2).

**COVID-19:**

We will continue treatments as long as patients are well and staffing levels are acceptable

To make sure patients (and households) have no symptoms to suggest COVID-19 before the patient attends for his/her treatment session.

Advice to patients: DO NOT change or stop your regular medications without discussion with your consultant or specialist nurse.

Rationale for patients attending hospital for Lipoprotein apheresis:

* Hospital treatment in a recognised lipoprotein apheresis centres.

Possible side effects from Lipoprotein apheresis:

* Patients may feel tired after treatment sessions.
* Hypotension.
* Vitamin and mineral deficiencies and anaemia.
* Bleeding from fistula.
* Narrowing or blockages of fistula’s requiring fistuloplasty. This much more likely if treatment sessions omitted.

Benefits of Lipoprotein apheresis:

* Reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease and progression of atherosclerotic CVD.
* Aim for > 60% reduction in LDL cholesterol at each treatment.
* Reduces levels of lipoprotein (a).