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# Transmedics OCS Heart

Initiative Type

Technology

Status

Deliver

Added

31 January 2018

Last updated

04 January 2025

URL

<https://test.clinicalexcclence.qld.gov.au/improvement-exchange/transmedics-ocs-heart>

## Summary

Chronic heart failure (HF) is a progressive, debilitating chronic disease associated with significant risks of death. Heart transplantation remains the gold standard treatment for selected patients with end-stage HF failing modern day therapies. TransMedics Organ Care System (OCS) Heart (aka “beating heart in a box”) is a portable perfusion system that allows the heart to be kept in a warm and functioning state (i.e. beating) outside of the body.

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Previously, all donor hearts were transported using cold storage preservation method (i.e. ice). TPCH is one of only three hospitals in Australia using this technology in specific circumstances.

## Key dates

Sep 2016

Sep 2018

## Implementation sites

The Prince Charles Hospital

## Key Contacts

Jacqui Thomson

7372

[Anonymous](#)

Manager

Healthcare Improvement Unit

(07) 3328 9283

secretariat\_hta@health.qld.gov.au

## Aim

Provides an opportunity to pilot and evaluate new technologies within 'real world' clinical settings in the Queensland context.

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## Benefits

The potential benefits of this technology include:

- OCS Heart allows clinicians to monitor, assess and re-condition the donor heart during transport.
- Maintaining the donor heart in a normal or close to normal physiological state provides better preservation of the organ during transport.
- OCS Heart minimises the risk of adverse post-transplant outcomes and improves post-transplant outcomes.
- The window of time to perform transplants is expanded from 4 hours using cold storage up to 8 hours using OCS Heart, before the heart starts to deteriorate.
- Using OCS Heart may expand the potential heart donor pool and reduce the average heart transplant recipient wait list time by as much as 20-30%.
- OCS Heart will allow the viability of donor organs to increase and for the hospital to perform additional transplants each year.

## Background

This technology was funded through the New Technology Funding and Evaluation Program (NTFEP). The NTFEP funds the introduction and evaluation of new technologies that:

- Are safe and effective
- Provide better health outcomes
- Provide value for money
- Provide greater access to care.

The evaluation findings will inform recommendations regarding the future use and/or investment of the technology within Queensland.

## Evaluation and Results

Key findings will be published at the end of the evaluation period.

## Resources

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[Technology Evaluation Summary](#)

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