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Give

to save the world



ORGAN AND TISSUE DONORS SAVE LIVES

Just one donor can save seven lives and help up to 50 people. Organ and tissue transplants are often highly successful, and are considered routine surgical practice for people with serious illnesses and conditions including kidney, liver, heart or lung disease. Over the past 50 years, surgeons have made great strides in their ability to implant organs in people who are seriously ill and as a result countless lives have been saved.

Who can be an organ / tissue donor?

Any person under the age of 70 and with no sign of cancer, hepatitis or HIV infection can become an organ donor.

Can I be a donor if I have an existing medical condition?

Having a medical condition does not necessarily prevent a person from becoming an organ donor. The decision about what organs will be transplanted will be established at your time of death.

Which organs/tissues can be donated?

At least 21 different organs such as hearts, livers and kidneys and tissues such as corneas, skin, bone, heart valves and bone marrow can now be successfully transplanted.

Can I agree to donate only some organs or tissue and not others?

Yes. Please inform your family which organs or tissue you do not wish to donate.

How do I become a potential organ / tissue donor?

The process is straightforward. Register online or call the Organ Donor Foundation.

You will receive a small organ donor card to fill in and carry in your wallet. You will also get a sticker to put on your ID document and on your driver's license.

It is most important to discuss the decision with your family. Let them know you want to donate your organs after death. Ask them to honour your wish when you die.

Is there any cost involved in signing up as an organ / tissue donor?

No, it costs nothing to sign up as an organ donor.

Does my family pay for the cost of donation?

The hospital or state will cover all medical expenses from the moment of diagnosis of brain death and when your family has given consent for the removal of organs/tissue.

Would my family be paid for donating my organs/tissue?

No, organ or tissue donation is a gift of life from one family to another and it is illegal to trade or sell organs and tissue.

Can I be a live donor?

Yes, in some cases. Live donations, such as a kidneys are often done between family members, because the blood groups and tissue types are more compatible to ensure a high success rate.

You can also donate bone marrow as a live donor. Children and adults with blood

diseases such as leukaemia and bone marrow failure, reach a stage where their only chance of surviving is a bone marrow transplant from a healthy live donor. A patient's family member or a matching donor is used for the donation. You can register as a donor by calling The Sunflower Fund. You will be given more information about the eligibility criteria and the donation process and if eligible you will be registered with the South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR).



How long after death do the organs / tissue have to be removed?

It is essential that organs and/or tissue are removed as soon as possible after brain death in order to ensure successful transplantation. Brain death has to be certified by two independent doctors.



How do doctors know I am really dead?

Two doctors, who are completely independent of the transplant team, have to perform detailed tests before a person can be declared brain dead. The criteria for brain death are very strictly adhered to and accepted medically, legally and ethically in South Africa and internationally.

Can doctors keep me alive on support systems?

All potential organ donors are patients on support systems. They are submitted to tests to certify brain death and become organ donors once brain death is certified and permission is obtained from a family member for organ donation. Death of the organ donor is defined by the time of certification of brain death, not by the withdrawal of support.



Does being a donor delay the funeral?

No, as soon as the donated organs / tissue has been removed, the body is returned to the family to bury or cremate.

Does organ / tissue donation leave my body disfigured?

The utmost respect and dignity is given to the donor at all times. The recovery of organs and tissue are carried out with great care by surgeons and trained staff and the process does not change the way the body looks.

Are there religious objections to transplantation?

Most religions support organ and tissue donation, as it is consistent with life preservation. If you are unsure, you should talk to your spiritual leader.



Can I change my mind?

Yes. You can change your mind at any time. Simply tear up your organ donor card and remove your sticker from your ID document and driver's license. Please inform your family that you no longer wish to be an organ donor.

Fast facts

Being an organ donor

Save seven lives

One person can potentially save seven lives by donating one heart, one liver, one pancreas, two lungs and two kidneys.

Steps you should take

1 Become an organ donor

Contact the south african organ donor foundation

0800 22 66 11

Or visit <https://www.odf.org.za> to find out more, and to register to become a donor.

ORGAN DONOR
FOUNDATION



Medic alert and elixir medical shields provides these items, not the organ donor foundation. Please telephone medic alert on (021) 425 7328/ 0861 112 979 or elixir medical shields on 0861 115 178 for further information. Always carry an organ donor card in your wallet and place an organ donor sticker on your id document and on your driver's license.

2 Register as a bone marrow donor

Contact the sunflower fund

0800 12 10 82

Or visit: <http://www.sunflowerfund.org.za>



The Sunflower Fund
Hope begins with you



Tell your family today

It is the person who decides to be an organ donor's responsibility to inform his/her family of their wish to be an organ donor.

It is important for your family to be aware of your wishes as WITHOUT their consent your organs / tissue cannot be donated.



Steps your family should take

Speak to the medical professional attending to your loved one – physician, ICU and trauma unit nurse, neurologist etc. to inform them of your loved one's wishes to be a donor. Ask for contact details of the closest transplant centre or call the Organ Donor Foundation for assistance.