

Eye donation



The gift of sight

Join the NHS Organ
Donor Register

0300 123 23 23
www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Eye donation restores sight



NHS
Blood and Transplant

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ODR071 12/09

ODR071

FREEPOST RRZK-SHUX-SBCK
NHS Blood and Transplant
Fox Den Road
Bristol
BS34 8ZZ

You don't
need to use
a stamp, but
doing so
helps to save
our funds

Help others to see again

Every year in the UK, the miracle of cornea transplantation helps to restore the sight of more than 2,500 blind and partially sighted people. But the shortage of donated eyes means that if there were more donors, many more people could be given the chance to see again, with all the opportunities that this brings.

Cornea transplants are needed because of disease or injury, which can lead to blindness. Corneas are the clear tissue at the front of our eyes. When they become cloudy, scarred or mis-shapen, our vision becomes severely limited or we become blind.



How does eye and tissue donation work?

Doctors and nurses are committed to doing everything possible to save life and eye and tissue donation is only considered after a patient has died.

One donor can restore the sight of two people through a cornea transplant. If you donate organs and other tissue as well, such as skin, bone, heart valves and tendons, you can give life to many more.

The removal of eyes, organs and tissue is carried out with the same care and respect as any other operation. It does not prevent relatives saying goodbye to their loved-ones or affect funeral arrangements.

What is the NHS Organ Donor Register?

The NHS Organ Donor Register records the details of those who want to donate and makes it possible for those who need an organ to receive one. Anyone can register. Organs from people in their 70s and 80s are transplanted successfully giving life to others.

What other tissue can be donated?

Bone is used to help improve and restore mobility and can prevent limb amputation for bone cancer patients.

Heart valves are transplanted to save the lives of patients suffering from diseased or damaged valves, and young children born with malformed hearts.

Skin can help to save the lives of severe burns victims. A skin graft helps to reduce pain and prepares underlying tissue for later treatment. It also helps to reduce scarring, but it can take a number of skin grafts to help a severely affected patient.

Tendons can be used to restore mobility in patients with badly damaged knee joints, usually following sports injuries.

How to register

Join the NHS Organ Donor Register today to ensure that you can give life after your death. It is only through the generosity of people like you that lives can be saved through transplants. Please register using one of the following methods:

- visit organdonation.nhs.uk
- call **0300 123 23 23**
- text **SAVE** to **84118**
- Complete and return this leaflet

Please register my details on the NHS Organ Donor Register

Please complete in CAPITAL LETTERS using a black ballpoint pen.
*Indicates that a field must be completed.

My name and address

Surname* _____
Forename(s)* _____
Date of birth* / / Male * Female *
Address* _____

Postcode* _____
Telephone _____
Mobile _____
Email _____

My wishes

I want to donate: (Please tick the boxes that apply)
A. any of my organs and tissue or
B. my kidneys heart liver small bowel
eyes lungs pancreas tissue
for transplantation after my death.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please tick here if you would like to receive future information about blood, organ and tissue donation from NHS Blood and Transplant.

My ethnic origin

There's a better chance of getting a closer match and a successful transplant if the donor and recipient are from the same ethnic group. Please tick the ethnic group which best describes you.

- White:** British Irish Other
Mixed: White/Black Caribbean White/Asian
White/Black African Other
Asian or Asian British: Indian Pakistani
Bangladeshi Other
Black or Black British: Caribbean African Other
Other mixed background: Chinese Other
Not stated:

Data Protection Assurance. Completion of this form is for the purpose of recording your wishes to become an organ donor. All information provided to NHS Blood and Transplant is used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your data may be handled on our behalf in a country not normally covered by EU Data Protection law. If so, we will ensure that the data will be protected by the EU requirements. More information on how we look after your personal details can be found at www.nhsbt.nhs.uk or by calling **0300 123 23 23**.

If you wish to amend or withdraw your record from the NHS Organ Donor Register you can do so by calling the Organ Donor Line on **0300 123 23 23**, visiting www.organdonation.nhs.uk or writing to us at the address overleaf.