

Can I still be an organ donor if I have a living will?

Yes. You may want to speak to your attorney about having a special provision in your living will that indicates that life support may be used to the extent needed to preserve your organs until the donation can be made. You should also make sure your family and your doctor know that you want to have every measure taken to permit your organs to be used for donation.

Can I change my mind after signing a donor card?

Yes. Simply tear up the card and tell your family members and loved ones that you have done so. Nothing else is necessary.

Can I be sure that my gift will be used?

Yes, if circumstances permit, and if the organ or tissue donation can be used to benefit the health and life of another person.

What does the future hold?

As medical scientists identify better techniques for matching and preserving organs and tissues and for preventing rejection, all types of transplants will become more and more successful and commonplace, provided enough organs and tissues are donated to meet the needs of the many patients who are waiting.

What else can I do to advance this life-sustaining and life-enhancing program?

Be sure to tell others about the organ donor program. The more donors who become available, the more frequently this important medical advance will be able to be used for the benefit of others.

I am interested in receiving more information on kidney & urology issues. Please contact me by:

Phone E-mail Mail

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Does organ donation affect funeral and burial arrangements?

No. The removal of organs and tissues for transplantation should not interfere with customary funeral or burial arrangements. The removal of organs and tissues is a sterile surgical procedure. The body remains otherwise intact, so open casket funerals are possible, if they are desired.

Do I have to register with some agency?

No. Your signed and witnessed donor card is all that is needed, but it is very important to inform your loved ones and your physician of your wishes to ensure that they will understand and follow them. Your next-of-kin will be asked to sign consent forms before any of your organs or tissues are removed.

Do I have to mention organ donation in my will?

No. Donated organs must be removed soon after death has occurred and this will be long before your will is read.



Give the gift of life.

The Kidney & Urology Foundation of America, Inc. is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping people avoid the debilitating effects of kidney and urologic diseases – disorders affecting as many as 70 million Americans today.

By funding research, medical conferences, and interdisciplinary hospital initiatives, the Kidney & Urology Foundation provides the leadership necessary to promote a better understanding of kidney and urologic diseases.

We are committed to making research and resources accessible to patients and their families, as well as to caregivers, and we measure our success by our ability to respond meaningfully and personally to the public and to people in need.

To show your support of a family member, friend, or loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, consider making a gift to the Kidney & Urology Foundation of America. All donations bring hope and help to the millions of Americans, young and old, suffering from kidney, urologic, and related diseases.

For more information on arranging a legacy, gifts of real estate, automobiles, and securities, please contact:



**KIDNEY &
UROLOGY**
FOUNDATION of AMERICA, INC.

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Visit our web site at
www.kidneyurology.org



What You Should Know About Organ and Tissue Donation



**KIDNEY &
UROLOGY**
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Research and Programs That Touch People
1-800-63-DONATE
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Why should I become an organ donor?

Many people who need transplants of organs and tissues cannot get them because of a shortage of donations.

- ◆ Every month, more than 2,000 new names are added to the national waiting list for organ transplants.
- ◆ About 17 people die every day while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ such as a kidney, heart or liver.

Organ and tissue donation is truly a gift of life – it can be your gift of life.

Are organ and tissue transplants experimental?

No. Medical advances now make it possible to replace many organs and tissues successfully. Thousands of successful organ and tissue transplants take place each year. Kidney and corneal transplants are the most common, but new drugs and improved techniques are increasing the numbers of heart, liver, pancreas, lung, bone and other types of transplants. Transplantation is recognized as the preferred treatment for organ failure.

How are organs and tissues for transplantation obtained?

Most organs and tissues are donated by individuals at the time of death. This is called deceased (cadaveric) donation.

Living Donors

Another way of obtaining organs and tissues for transplantation is from living donors. Live donors may be genetically related (living related donors like a brother or sister) or genetically disparate (living unrelated donors). Today, almost 50% of all donor kidneys are from living donors – and within that group, the number of living unrelated, emotionally attached donors is increasing. Living donation is possible in the case of kidney or bone marrow transplants because the donor can remain in good health and lead a normal life with one kidney or after having donated bone marrow. Laparoscopic surgical procedures now enable many living kidney donors to leave the hospital in three days and to return to work in 2 weeks or less. Partial liver, lung and pancreas donations may also come from living donors.

How are donated organs distributed?

In most cases, the transplant will come from a deceased donor. The names of all those waiting for transplants from deceased donors are placed on a waiting list until suitably matched organs become available. Donated organs are matched with individuals on the waiting list. The main criteria for matching organs is waiting time within ABO compatible blood groups.

The system ensures that donated organs are offered to those who are in most critical need and those who most closely match the characteristics of the donor. The organs are removed surgically soon after the time of death, preserved and transported to the center where the transplant is scheduled to take place.

Do religious groups support organ and tissue donation?

Yes. Religious leaders the world over favor such donations as expressions of the highest humanitarian ideals. This gift of life is consistent with the principles of most religious and ethical beliefs. If you have questions about your religion's position concerning organ and tissue donation, consult your religious leader.



Who can become an organ and tissue donor?

If you are 18 years of age or older, you may choose to become a donor at the time of your death by signing a Uniform Donor Card or the organ donor declaration on your driver's license. If you are less than 18, you may become a donor if your parent or a legal guardian gives consent. 20% of all donated kidneys are from donors aged 60 or older.

What organs and tissues can be donated?

One donor can benefit many other people. Organs and tissues that can be transplanted include: the kidneys, corneas, heart, heart/lungs, liver, pancreas, heart valves, bone, bone marrow and skin. You may specify what organs and/or tissues you wish to donate upon your death on your Uniform Donor Card or on your driver's license.

Will the quality of in-hospital treatment be altered if a person has signed a Uniform Donor Card or is a declared organ donor?

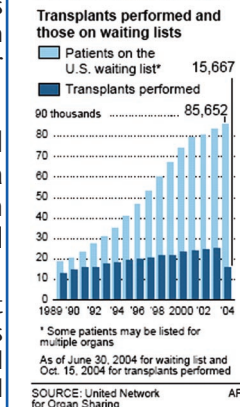
Absolutely not. Organ donation is not even considered until all possible efforts to save a patient's life have failed and only after the patient is pronounced dead. The criteria used to determine death are based on strict medical and legal standards. The determination of death must be made by doctors who are not involved in the organ donation or transplant process. Potential organ donors are maintained on life support systems to keep all vital organs healthy until the donation can take place.

It is important to tell your family members about your decision to be a donor.

Is there a system for giving the option of organ and tissue donation to the families of patients who have died?

Yes. Most states have passed required request laws. These require hospitals to have a system in place for asking the family members of someone who has died to consider donating their loved one's organs or tissues. The family members must sign a consent form before donation can take place, even if the person had indicated the desire to be a donor by signing a Uniform Donor Card or the organ donor declaration on his or her driver's license. That is why it is so important to tell your family members about your decision to be a donor.

Organ Transplants



Who pays for transplantation?

Costs to the Recipient

Medicare is a health insurance program funded by federal tax money. It is available to people who are 65 or older, disabled or have end stage renal disease(ESRD). Medicare covers many of the costs associated with kidney transplants for those who are eligible.

Medicare also covers expenses of heart, heart/lung, lung, liver, pancreas, kidney/pancreas, cornea and bone marrow transplants for patients with certain medical conditions. Recent policy changes in Medicare allow for some small bowel and intestinal transplants to be covered as well. Medicare does not always pay 100% of your medical expenses. Because of these additional expenses, it may be necessary to buy a private insurance policy, called a supplemental or "Medigap" policy.

The Medicaid Program provides medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. It is funded and administered through a state-federal partnership. For more information you may contact your local social security office, transplant team or the Medicare Hotline at: 800.633.4227 or www.medicare.gov.

You or your family may have health insurance coverage through an employer or a personal policy. Although many insurance companies offer optional coverage for transplant costs, the terms and benefits of insurance vary widely. Contact your insurance company if you have questions about how much of your costs they will pay, including your lab tests, medications and follow-up care after you leave the hospital.

Transplant center social workers and financial coordinators can also help you with the information you need. They can contact your insurance company to check on your benefits and explain your coverage in more detail.

Is the donor or the donor's family responsible for any of the costs associated with organ and tissue donation?

No. There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for organ or tissue donation.

Living Donation: Who covers costs to the donor?

If the recipient is covered by a private insurance plan, some insurance companies pay 100 percent of the donor's expenses. If the recipient is covered by Medicare's end-stage renal disease program, Medicare pays all of the donor's medical expenses, including preliminary testing, the transplant operation, post-operative recovery costs and physician services during the hospital stay.

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