

Facts about Donation and Transplantation

- **Fact:** Organs and tissues that can be donated include: heart, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, liver, intestines, corneas, skin, tendons, bone, and heart valves.
- **Fact:** If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ donation can only be considered after brain death has been declared by a physician.
- **Fact:** Organ donation is consistent with the beliefs of most major religions
- **Fact:** People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Healthcare providers will determine your medical condition at the time of death and determine what organs and tissue can be donated.
- **Fact:** A national computer system and strict standards are in place to ensure ethical and fair distribution of organs. Organs are matched by blood and tissue typing, organ size, medical urgency, waiting time and geographic location.
- **Fact:** Even if you have indicated your decision on your drivers' license, state donor registry or a donor card, share this information with your family so they are aware of your decision.
- **Fact:** An open-casket funeral is possible for organ and tissue donors.
- **Fact:** There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for organ and tissue donation.
- **Fact:** Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it. Otherwise, a patient's privacy is maintained for both donor families and recipients.
- **Fact:** Living donation increases the number of organs available for transplant.
- **Fact:** Donors are needed for all races and ethnic groups. Transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background.