



Light Up Lives

Support Organ Donation and
Tell Your Family about Your Wish



Why is your support needed?

Medicine is ever advancing. Nevertheless, there are still some illnesses that are incurable, one of which being organ failure. When an organ has been so seriously damaged for any treatment to work, **transplantation is the only hope left to these patients.**

More than 2000 patients in Hong Kong have the urgent need for organ or tissue transplant every day. Without suitably-matched organs, these patients can only survive on machines or medications and struggle in agony. Some may even lose their battle within a short time.

A donated organ is a love bequeathed to others. To help patients with the urgent need for organ transplant, you may indicate your wish to donate your organs after death. Your family will certainly understand your will of kindness and give you their full support. Only the support of you and your family can give these patients a second chance to live.

Organ donation is the greatest gift to patients and their families. As people pass away, their organs are no longer needed

What is organ donation?

for their life-support functions. Yet, these organs may become the one and only hope for those who are desperately waiting for organ transplant.

Organ donation is not restricted by gender, age or race. In general, after a patient has been declared brain dead, healthcare professionals would assess his suitability for deceased organ donation. The Organ Donation Coordinator will provide bereavement care for the family members, explain the details of organ donation to the family members and seek their written consent to deceased organ donation.

Organs and tissues suitable for transplantation include **kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, corneas, bones and skin.** After obtaining the family's written consent, healthcare professionals would conduct comprehensive evaluation and assessment of the donor. The donated organs would be transplanted on suitable patients who are in need and with expected clinical benefits. The healthcare professionals would give full respect to the deceased donor and care of the body image throughout the process.





For more information, please visit the Organ Donation thematic website or Facebook page of the DH or call Health Education Infoline of the DH on **2833 0111**.



Organ Donation Thematic Website
of the Department of Health
www.organdonation.gov.hk



"Organ Donation at HK"
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/organdonationhk

Some common myths about organ donation



Myth



Fact



Once I am registered as an organ donor, the medical personnel will not save my life in case I am injured in an accident.



This is impossible. Saving life is the responsibility and foremost priority of healthcare professionals. Only after a patient is certified dead would the clinical team assess his / her suitability for organ donation.



I am too young to consider organ donation.



Most organ donors are victims of accident or death of acute illness. If their wish of organ donation after death has not been documented or made known to their family members when they are alive, it will be difficult to execute their wish after death. Thus, even young people may consider organ donation.



I am too old for organ donation.



In general, there is no limit of age for organ donation. Organs may be donated by a newborn or one as old as 75. As for tissue donation, the age limit for such is below 80 in the case of corneas, between 16 and 60 in the case of long bones and 10 or above for skin.



Only perfectly healthy people can donate organs after death.



Most people, including those suffering from brain cancer without secondary spread, can donate organs or tissues after death. Moreover, people of most cancer types can still donate their corneas after death even though their other organs are not suitable for donation. The transplant team will assess all potential donors individually to decide if their organs are truly suitable for such purpose.



I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rite.



Once the family's written consent is obtained, the clinical team would proceed with the organ donation operation with full respect of the deceased donor and care of the body image throughout the entire process.



I am worried that all my organs will be taken away regardless of my wish.



You may specify in the CODR or on the organ donation card which organ(s) or tissue(s) you wish to donate. In addition, family member of the deceased has to provide consent in writing on the specific organ or tissue to be donated for transplant.



The transplant of an organ from one body to another may not be acceptable according to my religious belief.



Most religions encourage sharing and giving. In fact, religions such as Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism, Christianity and Islam all support organ donation as an act of benevolence and merit.



I do not want to tell my family about my wish to donate organs after my death.



When a patient has passed away, the clinical team would need the family's written consent to proceed with the organ donation operation. As such, it is very important to inform family members of the wish.



I am worried about the fees and charges arising from organ donation.



Fees and charges arising from organ donation after the death of donors are not to be borne by their family.