



Donation and Transplantation FAQs

What is National Donate Life Month (NDLM)?

April is National Donate Life Month (NDLM), a month commemorating those who have received transplants, recognizing those who continue to wait, honoring donors and donor families, and thanking registered donors for giving hope. Established by Donate Life America and partnering organizations in 2003, NDLM features an entire month of local, regional and national activities aimed at encouraging Americans to register as organ, tissue and cornea donors, and to celebrate those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

What is National Pediatric Transplant Week?

National Pediatric Transplant Week is a week at the end of NDLM that offers donation and transplantation organizations the platform to talk about the powerful message of ending the pediatric waiting list; share clinical partners' innovative work and patient stories (candidates and recipients); and honor donor families whose children have saved and healed lives through organ, tissue and cornea donation.

Who Can Be a Donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential deceased donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated. Living donors should be in good overall physical and mental health and older than 18 years of age. Some medical conditions could prevent an individual from being a living donor. Transplant programs complete a full patient evaluation to protect both the living donor's and the recipient's health and safety.

Does Registering as a Donor Change My Patient Care?

Doctors work hard to save every patient's life. Sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. That patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does My Religion Support Organ, Tissue and Cornea Donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

Is There a Cost to Be an Organ, Tissue and Cornea Donor?

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

Does My Social and/or Financial Status Play Any Part in Whether or Not I Will Receive an Organ If I Ever Need One?

A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on many factors, including blood type, body size, how sick they are, distance from donor hospital and time on the list. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Why Should I Register My Decision to Be a Donor?

Most Americans support donation as an opportunity to give life and health to others. Unfortunately, many people overlook the important step of registering as a donor. Donors are often people who die suddenly and unexpectedly. Their families are then faced with making the decision at a time of shock and grief. Registering relieves your family of this burden.

You can save up to eight lives and heal the lives of more than 75 people. Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.

TO REGISTER YOUR DECISION TO BE A DONOR, PLEASE VISIT CORE.ORG/REGISTER.