Educator Resource Guide

dedicated to educating communities about organ, eye, and tissue donation

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LifeCenter Northwest
LifeCenter Northwest is one of the 58 federally-designated non-profit organ procurement organizations (OPO) in the United States. LifeCenter Northwest saves and enhances lives by facilitating the recovery of organs and tissues in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho, and Washington.

The Community Relations and Marketing department at LifeCenter Northwest represents the Donate Life Today Registry (formerly known as Living Legacy Foundation) and is charged with educating the community about the need and the importance for people to register their donation wishes along with the following:
• Ensure donation wishes are granted by maintaining the donor registry (Donate Life Today), a confidential database of donation wishes to be carried out at the time of death.
• Provide educational programs to high school students before they are asked about donation when they get their drivers license.
• Provide outreach programs in diverse communities.
• Support the Department of Licensing by providing staff training and donation registry information.
• Provide the public a direct line to donation professionals who can answer questions.
• Work with the media to accurately report donation stories.
• Raise funds to support public education programs.

Donate Life Today Registry
The Montana and Washington Donate Life Today Registry is a confidential database of donation wishes to be carried out at the time of death. The database is managed and accessed only by donation professionals. In Alaska, the information is stored in the Alaska Donor Registry. In Idaho, the information is stored in the Yes Idaho Registry. The driver licensing organizations in all four states will continue to ask citizens about their organ, eye, and tissue donation wishes when they apply for or renew their driver’s license. This information is added to the registries on a daily basis.

www.DonateLifeToday.com
The Donate Life Today High School Education Program was created as a community resource for students to learn more about organ, eye, and tissue donation. Working with schools, we provide opportunities for students to complete service learning projects and community service requirements focused on increasing organ, eye, and tissue donation awareness and donor registrations.

Donate Life Today offers an in-class, informational presentation called “It’s Your Choice” where students can learn the facts, ask questions and hear personal stories of individuals whose lives were directly impacted by donation and transplantation. Young adults will be able to make an informed decision on registering to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor as a result of this in-class presentation along with our online class projects.

If an in-class presentation is unavailable in your area, students can watch our high school educational video “It’s Your Choice” online, complete a worksheet and explore organs, eyes, and tissues that can be donated with the interactive body on our website at www.DonateLifeToday.com/highschool
Yes! I am interested in an educational presentation on organ, eye, and tissue donation by Donate Life Today.

There are 3 ways you can schedule a presentation:
1. Call Molly at (425) 201-6617, or toll free outside the Seattle area at (877) 275-5269
2. E-mail Molly at mollys@lcnw.org
3. Sign up online at www.DonateLifeToday.com/forms/highschool.php

We will need to know the following information for scheduling purposes:

1. Let us know your interest and which dates are best for you.

   I am interested in scheduling a presentation on:

   1st Choice Date: _______________  Periods/time ___ through ____
   2nd Choice Date: _______________  Periods/time ___ through ____

2. Please provide the following information so I can contact you:

   Name: __________________________________________
   School: _________________________________________
   Address: _________________________________________
   City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: ______
   Phone: __________________________ 
   Best time to reach you via phone: ______________________
   Email: ___________________________________________
Recommended Lesson Plan

1. **Donate Life Today Guest Speaker** 15 minutes
   - An opportunity to hear from someone affected by organ, eye, and tissue donation, i.e. heart transplant recipient, donor family member, living kidney donor.
   - Please contact Donate Life Today to arrange a High School Education Speaker.

2. **“It’s Your Choice…Donate Life” Video** 15 minutes
   - Video provided by Donate Life Today

3. **Question/Answer Session** 5 minutes
   - Typical questions are provided in this guide

4. **Review Registry Brochure** 5 minutes
   - Materials provided by Donate Life Today

Supplemental Lesson Plans

1. **Online Student Research** 20 minutes
   - Please visit [www.DonateLifeToday.com/highschool](http://www.DonateLifeToday.com/highschool)
   - You may want to assign the following online activities as research, homework or extra credit:
     - Watch the local high school educational video “It’s Your Choice”
     - Examine and/or research organs, eyes, and tissues that can be donated by exploring the interactive body
     - Complete the provided worksheet about donation which includes multiple choice and T/F questions along with a Family Discussion Guide that encourages students to come up with statements to share with their family about their decision

2. **Crossword Puzzle** 5 minutes
   - Included in guide; provided by Decision: Donation; permission granted to make copies.
Fast Facts

- Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, ethnicity, or medical history.

- Most major religions in the United States support organ, eye, and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

- If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye, and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

- When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or celebrity status.

- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye, and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

- There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ, eye, or tissue donation.

- One organ, eye, and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 50 people.
**Does organ, eye, and tissue donation really help people?**

- Organ transplants are life-saving operations. People on the transplant waiting list are dying of conditions like heart failure and kidney disease, and most will die without the help of a generous organ donor.
- Tissue transplants are life-saving and life-enhancing operations. Tissue transplants save the lives of recovering burn victims, help blind people see and help people walk again.
- Post-transplant, organ, eye, and tissue recipients can live healthy, active lives that weren’t possible when they were ill. Most recipients make such an amazing recovery, you wouldn’t know they’d received a transplant unless they told you.

**Who can be a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor?**

- While age and medical history are factors, almost anyone can be considered for organ, eye, and tissue donation.
- Decisions about medical suitability for donation are made, at the time of death, by professionally trained and experienced medical professionals.
- Everyone, regardless of age or medical history, is encouraged to register as a donor.

**How do I become a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor?**

*How to become a registered donor in Montana and Washington*

- Register online at [www.DonateLifeToday.com](http://www.DonateLifeToday.com)
- Call toll-free at 1-877-275-5269 and request a brochure to fill out and return.
- Say YES to donation when renewing your driver’s license. Residents who already have a heart on their driver’s license are automatically added to the Donate Life Today Registry.

*How to become a registered donor in Alaska*

- Register online at [www.alaskadonorregistry.org](http://www.alaskadonorregistry.org)
- Call toll-free at 1-800-719-LIFE and request a brochure to fill out and return.
- Say YES to donation when renewing your driver’s license. Residents who already have a heart on their driver’s license are automatically added to the Alaska Donor Registry.

*How to become a registered donor in Idaho*

- Register online at [www.yesidaho.org](http://www.yesidaho.org)
- Call the Idaho Donor Registry toll-free at 1-866-937-4324
- Say YES to donation when renewing your driver’s license. Residents who already have the word DONOR on their driver’s license are automatically added to the Idaho Donor Registry.

**What organs, eyes, and tissues can be donated?**

- Organs: heart, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas and small intestines.
- Tissues: corneas, bone, blood vessels, heart valves, skin, veins, tendons and ligaments.
- Please see the Donation Resources page for specific information on blood donations.
Can I set limitations on the organs, eyes, and tissues I would like to donate?
• Saying yes to donation on your driver’s license indicates your consent for all organs, eyes, and tissues, for transplant and research.
• If you’d like to set limits, such as ruling out specific organs, eyes, or tissues, indicating transplant, research or both, you must either request a brochure or register online.

What if I change my mind?
• Your most recent access to the registry, whether via your driver’s license, sending in a brochure or accessing the registry online, is the information maintained in the registry.
• If you alter your record or decide to remove yourself, that will override any past information.
• To remove yourself from the registry, say no to donation when you renew your license or call the registry agency in your area to request removal.

Where does organ, eye, and tissue donation happen?
• Donation occurs at a medical facility after death is declared and consent for donation is obtained from the donor registry or the deceased’s next of kin.
• LifeCenter Northwest works with over 220 hospitals throughout our donor service area of Alaska, Montana, North Idaho, and Washington.

Does the donor’s family incur the cost of donation?
• There is no cost to the donor’s family for organ, eye, and tissue donation.
• All costs related to donation are paid by the donation agency.
• Expenses related to saving the individual’s life and funeral expenses remain the responsibility of the donor’s family.

What if an individual registered to be a donor, but family is opposed to donation?
• State and federal laws support the donor’s rights.
• If an individual has recorded their personal donation decision, it must be honored, whether or not the next of kin agree with donation or not*.
• Information about their loved one’s decision will be communicated to the family members before donations occur, and they will be supported throughout the donation process.
• Making sure your family is already aware of your donation decision helps to prevent more stress during their time of loss.
• Most families are happy to know their loved one had made a decision and want to follow through on their final wishes.
* If there is evidence that the person had changed their mind, but had not documented their decision, this will be taken into account before proceeding with donation.

Can the donor family meet the recipient(s)?
• Organ, eye, and tissue donation is a confidential process. No pressure is placed on donor families or transplant recipients to meet or make contact with one another.
• Shortly after donation, the donor family and recipient(s) will receive general information about one another (age, sex, occupation, general location). No identifying details are shared unless consent has been given by both parties.
• Recovery Organizations and the transplant centers can arrange contact if the desire is mutual.
How is the organ allocation process determined?

- If someone needs an organ transplant, his or her name is added to the National Transplant Waiting List.
- United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), the organization in charge of the waiting list, works with LifeCenter Northwest coordinators to match available organs to recipients in need.
- Through extensive testing, coordinators obtain information about blood type and genetic make-up for each transplantable organ.
- This information provides a list of suitable recipients, considering such factors as medical urgency, tissue type, length of time on the waiting list, blood type, and body size.
- Location is also considered in placement. Organs are offered in LifeCenter’s service area first (Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Washington). If a suitable match is not found, the organs are offered regionally, then nationally.
- *There is no discrimination due to age, sex, ethnicity, membership, occupation or social and/or financial status when determining who receives an organ.*

Where do organ transplants happen?

Transplants occur only at hospitals that specialize in transplant surgery. In this region, there are five transplant centers, each with programs specializing in different organs.

- Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center – kidney, heart, liver, small intestine
- Sacred Heart Medical Center – heart, kidney
- Swedish Medical Center – kidney, pancreas
- University of Washington Medical Center – heart, lungs, liver, kidney, pancreas, small intestine
- Virginia Mason Medical Center – kidney, pancreas

Will doctors still try hard to save a patient who they know is a registered donor?

- There is no conflict between saving lives and using organs, eyes, and tissues for transplantation.
- The doctors who work to save your life are not the same doctors involved in the recovery and transplantation.
- It is only after every attempt has been made to save your life – and death has been declared – that the donation process begins.

Will donation affect an open casket funeral?

- Organ, eye, and tissue donation is a delicate surgery and does not disfigure the body.
- An open casket funeral is still possible.
- A LifeCenter coordinator will address specific funeral-related questions with each family before donation occurs.

Can organs, eyes, and tissues be given to different ethnic groups or individuals of the opposite sex?

- Gender does not influence the allocation of donated organs, eyes, or tissues.
- Although it is possible for a candidate to match a donor from another ethnic group, transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background.
- Ethnic minorities make up more than half the people on the National Transplant Waiting List.
Are organs bought and sold on the black market?
- According to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 1984, human organs cannot be bought or sold in the United States. Violators are subject to fines and imprisonment.
- “Black market” sale is impossible because recovered organs must be rigorously tested to be appropriately matched to a fitting recipient.
- Organs are distributed according to national policy established and monitored by UNOS.

Are there religious objections to donation?
- Most major Western religions support donation as a humanitarian act of giving. Transplantation is consistent with the life-preserving traditions of these faiths.
- To learn more about the specific statements surrounding donation visit http://www.DonateLifeToday.com/content/understanding-donation/faith-based-perspectives

How can I become a living kidney donor?
- A living kidney donor is someone who donates one kidney from their own living body. A living kidney donor’s remaining kidney will do the work of two kidneys, while their donated kidney will do the same inside the transplant recipient.
- If you know someone who needs a living kidney donation, you should contact that person’s transplant center.
- If you do not have a specific patient in mind or want to give anonymously, you can contact any of the transplant centers in our region, they all have anonymous living kidney programs:

  University of Washington Medical Center  Swedish Medical Center
  206-598-3627  1-800-996-7426

  Sacred Heart Medical Center  Virginia Mason Medical Center
  509-474-4500  1-800-354-9527 ext. 11201

Are living kidney donations successful?
- Living donor transplants can provide recipients with an excellent quality of life for years.
- Completely matched sibling transplants often function well even after 25 years.
- With living donations, transplant recipients may feel better prepared because the transplant is a scheduled surgery.

How can I become a whole body donor?
- Whole body donation is not a program at LifeCenter Northwest, Alaska Donor Services, Northwest Tissue Services or SightLife.
- When signing up to be a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor, you are not signing up for whole body donation.
- Please see Donation Resources for specific state information on whole body donation.
ORGAN DONATION

LifeCenter Northwest
Donate Life Today
Serving AK, MT, North ID, WA
11245 SE 6th St. Suite 100
Bellevue, WA 98004
(877) 275-5269
www.lcnw.org
www.DonateLifeToday.com
www.donavidahoy.com

Donate Life America
www.donatelife.net
www.donavidahoy.com

United Network for Organ Sharing
www.unos.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.organdonor.gov

TISSUE DONATION

LifeCenter Northwest
Donate Life Today
Serving North ID, MT, WA
Please see address above

Northwest Tissue Services
Serving North ID, MT, WA
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
(800) 858-2282
www.psbc.org/programs/tissue.htm

SightLife
Serving North ID, MT, WA
907 Boren Avenue
Suite 810
Seattle, WA 98104
(800) 847-5786
www.sightlife.org

Life Alaska Donor Services
Serving AK
235 E 8th Avenue Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501-3656
(800) 719-5433
www.lifealaska.org

BLOOD DONATION

Puget Sound Blood Center
Serving Western WA
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 292-6500
www.psbc.org

Inland Northwest Blood Center
Serving Eastern WA & North ID
210 West Cataldo Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
(800) 423-0151
www.inbc2.org

United Blood Services
Serving MT
1444 Grand Ave.
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-9168
www.unitedbloodservices.org/

Blood Bank of Alaska
Serving AK
4000 Laurel St.
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 456-5645
www.bloodbankofalaska.org

American Red Cross Blood Services
(800) GIVE-LIFE
www.redcross.org

WHOLE BODY DONATION

University of Washington Willed Body Program
Serving WA
Department of Biological Structure
PO Box 357420
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-1860
http://wbp.biostr.washington.edu/

Montana State University - Bozeman
Serving MT
308 Leon Johnson Hall
PO Box 173080
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-6516
www.montana.edu/wwwami/bodydonate.html

Idaho State University - Anatomical Donation Program
Serving Idaho
650 Memorial Drive
Pocatello, ID 83208-8007
(208) 282-4379
www.isu.edu/bios/anatdon.shtml

University of Idaho & Washington State University- WWAMI Body Donation Program
Serving Northern Idaho & Eastern WA
P.O. Box 643510
Pullman, WA 99164-3510
(509) 335-2602
www.wsu.edu/~wwami/body_donor/index.htm

Science Care Anatomical, Inc.
Serving AK
20100 E. 32nd Pkwy, Ste. 125
Aurora, CO 80011-8175
(866) 887-0900
www.sciencecare.com/

DONATION RESOURCES
Online Resources

Local Resources

Donate Life Today Registry  
www.DonateLifeToday.com  
Provides the opportunity for Washington and Montana Residents to register their wish to be organ, eye, and tissue donors. Provides students an opportunity to explore organs, eyes, and tissues that can be donated through the interactive body, watch our high school educational video with real-life teen stories of donation and transplantation and complete online projects.

Yes Idaho Registry  
www.yesidaho.org  
Provides Idaho Residents the opportunity to register their wish to be organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Alaska Donor Registry  
www.alaskadonorregistry.org  
Provides Alaskans the opportunity to register their wish to be organ, eye, and tissue donors.

National Resources

Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)  
www.aopo.org  
Provides information on OPOs and the role they play in the donation and transplant process.

Decision: Donation  
www.organdonor.gov/student/  
Supplemental lesson plans and student activities available online and/or mailed at no charge. The program was provided to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the efforts of several organ procurement organizations.

Donate Life America  
www.donatelifeline.net  
National organization dedicated to educating the public about organ, eye, and tissue donation. Provides general information about organ, eye, and tissue donation in both English and Spanish.

Gift of a Lifetime  
www.organtransplants.org  
Online curriculum including an interactive journey of transplantation with real life stories of donation and transplantation.

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)  
www.unos.org  
UNOS manages the National Transplant Waiting List, and this site provides information and data concerning many aspects of donation and transplant. It is also linked with a partner site, that of the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN), which calculates all the donation and transplant statistics.
Understanding Brain Death

What is brain death?
- The complete and irreversible loss of brain and brain stem function
- An established medical and legal definition of death
- Brain death is death
- When brain death has been declared, families can be given the option of organ, eye, and tissue donation, if the patient has the medial potential to be a donor.

The above image shows the blood flow inside a normal, active brain. When someone severely injures their brain, the blood flow is cut off or restricted by pressure from the swelling brain. Brain death occurs when the blood flow to the brain is entirely lost. The photo below is of a brain dead brain.

Images courtesy of Gift of a Lifetime
www.organtransplants.org
Transplantable Organs

Diagram provided by Decision: Donation
Heart
- The body’s hardest working muscle, the heart beats 70 times each minute as it pumps blood throughout the body.
- Some conditions that can make a transplant necessary are cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocarditis, and heart disease.
- Hearts can be preserved for 4-6 hours.

Pancreas
- The pancreas produces insulin, a hormone that helps the body use glucose (sugar) for energy, and enzymes that break down fat, protein and carbohydrates during digestion.
- The pancreas controls the level of glucose in the blood. It is often transplanted with a kidney, because diabetes affects both organs. Conditions that might necessitate a pancreas transplant are diabetes or pancreas failure.
- The pancreas can be preserved for 2-14 hours.

Kidney
- Blood flows from the heart through the aorta and into the kidneys, which filter wastes and excess water from the blood and balance the body’s fluids.
- While waiting for a kidney transplant, many patients undergo dialysis, to clean toxins out of blood.
- Some conditions that could make a kidney transplant necessary are high blood pressure, diabetes and cystic kidney disease.
- Ethnic minorities are 4 times more likely to develop kidney failure.
- Kidneys are the most commonly transplanted organ & most in need.
- Kidneys can be preserved up to 36 hours.

Liver
- The liver is a complex organ that has more than 500 known functions. It breaks down harmful substances in the blood, produces bile that aids in digestion and stores vitamins, sugars, and fats.
- A donated liver can sometimes be split between two recipients, so one donor can be the source of two liver transplants.
- Some conditions that could necessitate a liver transplant are birth defects of the liver or bile duct, chronic liver infections like Hepatitis or drug and alcohol damage.
- Livers have a preservation time of 4-16 hours.

Lung
- The trachea or windpipe carries air to the lungs, where alveoli-tiny air sacs that are like folded balloons-extract oxygen and exchange it for carbon dioxide.
- A single lung can save a life. One donor can be the source of two lung transplants.
- Some conditions that could necessitate a lung transplant are cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, emphysema, and pulmonary edema.
- Lungs have a preservation time of 4-6 hours.

Intestine
- The intestines digest food and absorb nutrients back into the blood stream.
- Most intestinal transplants are preformed on infants and children.
- Some conditions that could make a transplant necessary are twisted or blocked intestines or short-gut syndrome.
- Intestines can be preserved for 8-16 hours.
Transplantable Tissues

Diagram provided by Decision: Donation
## Eye and Tissue Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Tissue</th>
<th>Transplanted Tissue</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Benefits to Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eye</strong></td>
<td>Sclera</td>
<td>• Repair eyelid, reinforce wall of eye. Also used to repair ruptured ear drums</td>
<td>Maintain structure; restores hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>• Replace diseased or damaged cornea</td>
<td>Prevents blindness; restores vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Musculoskeletal</strong></td>
<td>Bone</td>
<td>• Whole segment replacement, hip resection, spinal fusion, dental procedures</td>
<td>Avoid amputation, promote healing, maintain mobility, structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tendons</td>
<td>• Replace damaged tissue</td>
<td>Restore mobility, independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ligaments</td>
<td>• Replace damaged rotator cuff; used for bladder suspension</td>
<td>Restores independence in activities of daily living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cartilage</td>
<td>• Repairs congenital and traumatic facial deformity</td>
<td>Restores normal facial appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cardiovascular</strong></td>
<td>Heart Valves</td>
<td>• Repairs congenital heart defects, traumatic injury, and replaces diseased and damaged valves.</td>
<td>Life saving procedure for children. An alternative to prosthetic valve transplants. Prevents need for life-long anticoagulant (blood thinner) medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blood Vessels</td>
<td>• Bypass surgeries • Replace blocked or clogged veins below knee</td>
<td>Avoid secondary surgical site, amputation; restore circulation due to clogged veins and arteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Tissue</strong></td>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>• Burn and wound protection</td>
<td>Prevent infection, dehydration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collagen</td>
<td>• Reconstruction, bladder slings, vocal cord injections</td>
<td>Repair defects, scarring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Heart Valves
- Blood is pumped through the heart’s four chambers aided by four heart valves that open and close and prevent blood from flowing backward.
- Infections and aging related disease can damage heart valves, many children are also born with malformed valves.
- Heart valves can be recovered when the whole heart is determined not to be viable for transplant.
- Donated human vessels and valves are used as replacements and can mean the difference between life and death to recipients.
Skin

- About 21 square feet of skin, weighing up to fifteen pounds, covers the average adult. Skin is the body’s first line of defense against microbes, and also regulates heat and fluids in the body.
- Skin can be used to aid in the healing process for severe burn victims, for those who suffer from a disfiguring injury, or disease.
- Donated skin grafts will protect recipients from infection while promoting regeneration of their own skin.
- Skin is removed from the back of the legs and the back, about the thickness of a sunburn peal.
- Donation of skin does not interfere with funeral viewing arrangements.

Upper Body Bone

- Bones consist of living protein fibers that constantly rebuild themselves.
- The humerus, radius and ulna are the bones in the arm that can be removed.
- Bones can be transplanted in order to prevent amputation, promote healing, maintain mobility, and structure.
- After the bone and soft tissues are recovered, procurement technicians replace the bone with prosthetics.

Bone & Connective Tissue

- Bone and connective tissues include tendons, ligaments and cartilage.
- The gift of bone and connective tissues helps individuals with various orthopedic and neurosurgical conditions.
- These tissues will be used in a variety of back, joint, and leg surgeries such as hip replacement, knee reconstruction, and spinal fusion.
- After the bone and soft tissues are recovered, procurement technicians replace the bone with prosthetics.

Veins

- Arteries carry oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body, and veins bring the deoxygenated blood back.
- Many people lose circulation in their legs, or even in their heart, due to disease or trauma.
- Donated veins are used to restore circulation in heart bypass surgeries and to avoid leg amputation for people suffering poor circulation.

Eye

- Cornea
  - The Cornea is the clear, dome-shaped window covering the front of the eye. There are more nerve endings in the cornea than anywhere else in the body making it one of the most sensitive parts of the body.
  - Traumatic accidents to the eye, infections, and inherited eye diseases like Keratoconus are just a few reasons why cornea donation can fill such a great need.
  - Almost anyone can donate their corneas. Even individuals with diabetes or cancer.
- Whole Globe
  - After the cornea has been recovered, the sclera (the white part of the eye) can be utilized to repair eyelids and reinforce the wall of the eye.
  - Sclera can be used to repair ruptured ear drums to restore hearing.

Research

- Organs are not recovered for the sole purpose of research.
- Once removed, if the organs are found to be unsuitable for transplant or a recipient cannot be found, they may be provided for research.
- When signing up on the donor registry, you are not consenting for your entire body to be donated for research.
Multiple Choice

1. How can you make sure your decision about organ, eye, and tissue donation is known?
   a. Register your wish online
   b. Say YES to donation when you get your driver’s license
   c. Fill out and return a registry brochure
   d. All of the above

Answer: D, All of the above.

2. The recipient of an organ is determined according to:
   a. Blood and tissue type, body size, length of time on waiting list, medical urgency
   b. Ethnicity
   c. How famous you are

Answer: A, Blood & tissue type, body size, length of time on waiting list, medical urgency.
   - The LifeCenter Northwest coordinator matches organs to recipients using the National Transplant Waiting List.
   - Strict federal guidelines ensure ethical and fair distribution, so there is no way to cut in line based on wealth, fame or any other non-medical factor.

True/False

1. Transplants save / enhance lives.
   True          False

Answer: True
   - Transplant recipients receive a second chance at life. Most live many years as a result of the generosity of those who choose to become organ, eye, and tissue donors.

2. If I’m in an accident, doctors will still work hard to save my life even though I am a registered donor.
   True          False

Answer: True
   - The doctors who work to save your life are different than those involved in organ, eye, and tissue recovery and transplantation.
   - Only after death has been declared will organ, eye, and tissue donation be considered.

3. Americans overwhelmingly support organ, eye, and tissue donation.
   True          False

Answer: True
   - Polls indicate that over 90% of Americans are in favor of organ, eye, and tissue donation.
Donation Crossword

How much do you know about the process of organ and tissue donation and transplantation? Test your knowledge by trying to complete this crossword.

Across
1. Transplantable structure that controls direction of blood flow in the heart
3. Condition in which the brain no longer functions (2 words)
4. Long, narrow tubular part of the digestive tract
5. Organ whose function is gas exchange
7. System that protects the body against disease, and as a result, may cause rejection (2 words)
9. Individual who provides organs for others
11. To transfer an organ from one person to another
13. Main tissue that forms the skeleton
14. We have ______ lungs
16. Card that indicates your desire to become a donor
19. ______ death occurs when there is an absence of heartbeat with no chance of resuscitation
22. Large organ that, in addition to other functions, removes poisons from the blood
24. Organ that secretes a hormone that controls blood sugar level
28. Skin ______ are used to replace the skin of burn victims
31. Organ that produces urine
32. Arteries and veins are examples of blood ______
33. Organ and tissue donation is a gift of ______
35. Hormone that controls blood sugar level

Down
2. These carry blood toward the heart
3. Tissue found inside some bones and is important in the production of blood cells (2 words)
6. United Network for Organ Sharing (Abbrev)
8. Transplantable outer layer of the eyeball
10. Organ Procurement Organization (Abbrev)
12. These connect muscle to bone
14. Transplantable long bone in the lower leg
15. Soft tissue that makes up part of the skeleton; also found in the nose and ears
17. Someone who receives an organ or tissue
18. Process by which the body’s immune system recognizes and destroys transplanted organs or tissues
19. Another name for a dead body
20. Organ that pumps blood
21. Tissue that carries nutrients, oxygen, and waste products
23. What family is asked for before organs are removed from the body of a deceased loved one
25. Group of similar cells performing the same function
26. The heart, the brain, and the liver are examples of ______
27. Tissue that covers the body
29. Number of chambers in the human heart
30. It is illegal to ______ organs
34. Fibrous tissue that covers muscles

Crossword provided by Decision: Donation
Crossword Answers