



PAN-AFRICAN

MANAGED CARE

Organ Donor Month

August 2023



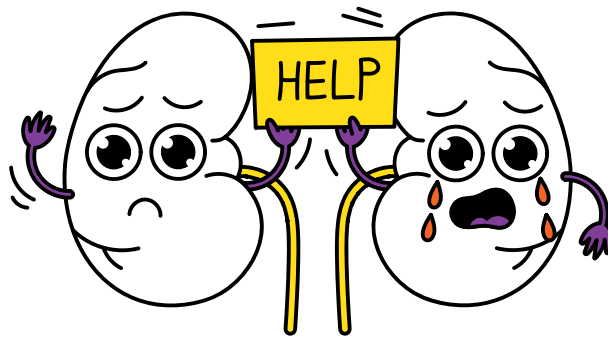
Organ Donor Month

August is National Organ Donor Awareness Month. South Africa is a world leader in the field of organ transplantation. However, while the number of patients waiting for transplants continues to increase the serious shortage of potential donors remains a great concern. So go on and save a life, register as an organ donor.

My personal thoughts on the matter are influenced by my belief system, culture and above all information and knowledge gained through studies as a healthcare professional. Besides that, I would also be none the wiser when it comes to this controversial topic. We will explore this topic but also urge you our valued reader to do your own research and speak to your healthcare professional around this topic and noble call for organ donors.

There are approximately 5,000 South African adults and children awaiting a life-saving organ and cornea transplant.

- The Organ Donor Foundation of South Africa (ODF) is a national non-profit and public benefit organisation established in 1988 to address the critical shortage of organ and tissue donors in South Africa through awareness and education campaigns aimed at the public and medical professionals.



According to the Organ Donor Foundation TRANSPLANT STATISTICS:
In South Africa in 2019:

- 356 solid organ transplants broken down into the following:
 - Hearts: 29 adults & 1 paediatric
 - Lungs: 13 adults
 - Livers: 54 adults, 34 paediatric of which:
 - a. 20 paediatric were live related
 - Kidneys: 216 adults, 8 paediatrics of which:
 - a. 76 adults were live related
 - b. 42 adults live non-related.

HOW DO I BECOME A POTENTIAL ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR?

The process is straightforward. Register online or call the Organ Donor Foundation's toll-free line on 0800 22 66 11.

HOW DO I OBTAIN AN ORGAN DONOR BRACELET/NECKLACE/DISK?

Medic Alert and Elixir Medical Shields provide these items, not the Organ Donor Foundation. Please telephone Medic Alert on (021) 425 7328 / 0861 112 979 or Elixir Medical Shields on 0861 115 178 for further information.

WHO CAN BE AN ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR?

Any person who is in good health and is clear of defined chronic diseases that might adversely affect the recipient will be considered as a possible donor.

CAN I BE A DONOR IF I HAVE AN EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION?

Having a medical condition does not necessarily prevent a person from becoming an organ/tissue donor. The decision about which organs/tissue will be transplanted will be established at your time of death.

DO I NEED MEDICAL TESTS TO REGISTER AS A DONOR?

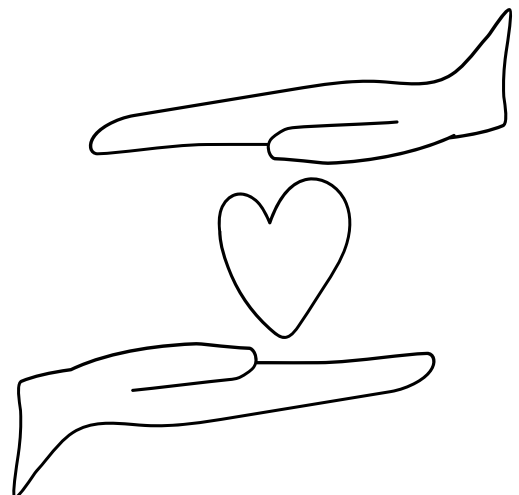
No. Medical tests will only be carried out at the time of death. This will involve medical professionals evaluating your medical and social history, carrying out blood and culture tests and conducting a physical examination. This is done to ensure that your organs and tissue is suitable for donation.

IS THERE ANY COST INVOLVED IN SIGNING UP AS AN ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR?

No, it costs nothing to sign up as an organ/tissue donor.

DOES MY FAMILY PAY FOR THE COST OF DONATION?

No, the donor and his/her family will not incur any costs. The hospital or Tissue Bank will cover all medical expenses from the moment your family has given consent for the donation of organs/tissue.



WOULD MY FAMILY RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR DONATING MY ORGANS/TISSUE?

No. Organ/tissue donation is a gift.

CAN PEOPLE BUY OR SELL ORGANS AND TISSUE?

No, organ/tissue donation is a Gift of Life from one family to another. Trading in organs and tissue is illegal and prohibited.

CAN I DONATE AN ORGAN/TISSUE WHILE I AM ALIVE?

Yes, in some cases. Live donations, such as a kidney are often done between family members, because the blood groups and tissue types are more compatible. This ensures a higher success rate.

STEPS YOUR FAMILY NEEDS TO TAKE TO ENSURE YOUR WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT:

Speak to the medical professional attending to your loved one – physician, ICU & trauma unit nurse, neurologist, etc. Inform them of your loved ones wishes. Ask for contact details of the closest transplant centre or call the Organ Donor Foundation's Toll Free Line 0800226611 for assistance.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?

Yes. You can change your mind at any time. Simply tear up your organ donor card and remove the sticker from your ID document and driver's license. Please inform your family that you no longer wish to be an organ/tissue donor. More info on the Organ Donor Foundation website. <https://odf.org.za> (foundation)[i].

REFERENCE

[i]NPO / PBO NUMBERS

003-458 NPO

PBO: 18/11/13/4

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