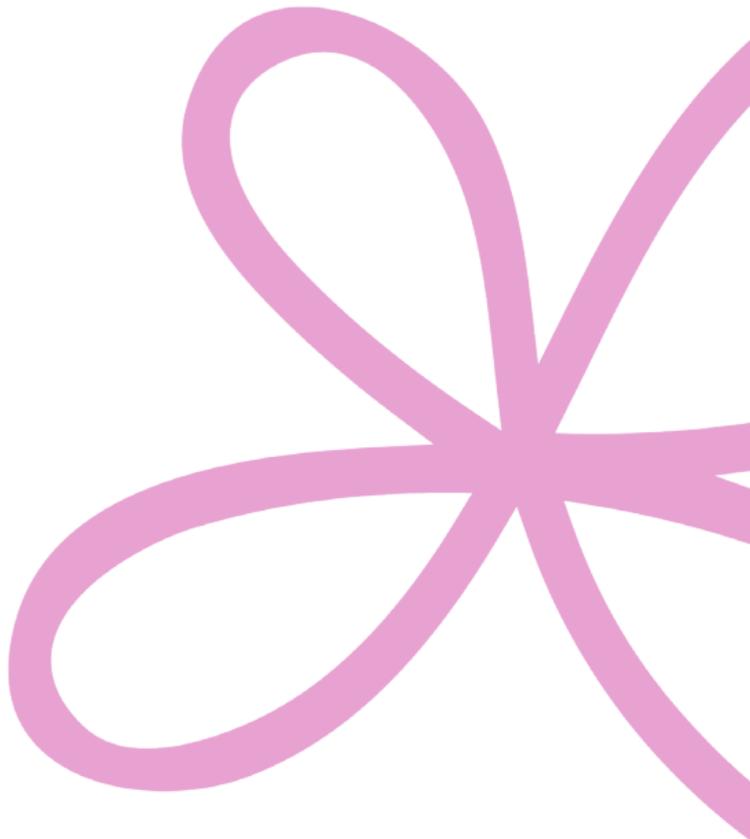


TISSUE DONATION

Important information
for you



What is tissue donation?

Tissue donation is when tissues in the body (e.g. bones, tendons, heart valves, corneas, blood vessels) are removed from one person and transplanted into another.

Tissues donations can be used to repair or rebuild the bodies, faces and lives of thousands of severely injured people each year. There is a critical shortage of tissues available for transplant.

Tissue donation is different to organ donation where organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver are donated to help someone who needs a transplant. Organs cannot be donated if you have cancer or certain infections.

Can I donate tissue if I have a terminal illness or cancer?

Yes. While it is often not possible to donate organs if you have cancer or certain infections, it may be possible to donate tissues.

The tissues which can be donated depend on diagnosis, medications you are taking and a number of other factors.

Even if you think you may not be eligible, please do not let this stop you from putting yourself forward as a potential donor as every case is reviewed and discussed individually.

Can anyone become a donor?

Almost anyone can be considered as a tissue donor. However, there are some rare exceptions.

To ensure that all donated tissues are safe, your medical and lifestyle history are assessed.

This is done to protect the person receiving the transplant from infection.

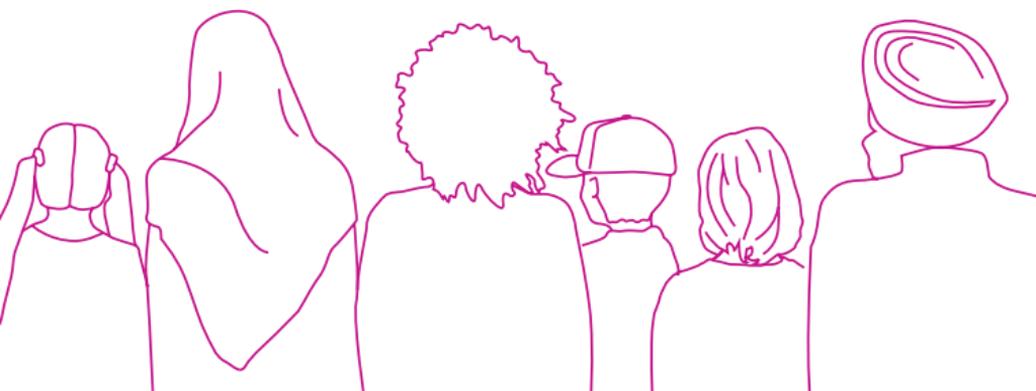
What can I donate & how it is used?

Tissue which can be donated includes:

- Corneas to help restore sight.
- Skin to help burn patients by stopping infections and to reduce scarring and reduce pain.
- Bone and tendons to aid bone repair or restore joint mobility.
- Heart valves to save the lives of children born with heart defects and adults with damaged heart valves.

Is there an age limit to tissue donation?

There are no age restrictions for corneas, bone or skin. However, heart valves and tendons can only be donated up to the age of 60.



Can I choose which tissues to donate?

Yes. Only those tissues for which you have given permission, will be donated.

What is the procedure for donating tissue?

After you die, the doctors at the Hospice will get in touch with the local tissue donor coordinators.

These coordinators will need to discuss the procedure with your next of kin and obtain consent.

Once consent is obtained, the tissue will be collected by specialists. They will treat your body with respect and are aware and appreciative of the gift you are giving to other patients.

How long after death can my tissue be donated?

The best time is within 24 hours after death. However, it is sometimes possible to donate up to 48 hours after death.

Will this affect my funeral?

Donating tissue should not affect your funeral in any way. It is still possible to have an open casket funeral.

What should I do now?

It is important to discuss your choices with your family or friends as they will need to consent to tissue donation after your death. Your decision as to whether or not to donate will not affect the care you receive.

If you need more information or have decided that you would like to donate tissues and help others after your death, please discuss this with your doctor or nurse. Alternatively, please call **0300 123 2323** or visit: **www.organdonation.nhs.uk**

Can I change my mind about donating?

Yes. You can ring **0300 123 2323** or visit **www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision** and fill in the form asking for your name to be removed.

From support in your home, in your community and at the Hospice, all of our services are free of charge.

Our staff provide expert care directly and also partner with other healthcare professionals to ensure care is co-ordinated for each person.

Many people benefit from our services. Every day, we support and care for more than 500 people living with life-limiting illnesses across Birmingham and Sandwell.

We are committed to improving the quality of life for people living with life-limiting illnesses, as well as supporting their families and loved ones during one of the most challenging periods they will face.

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