ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SCOTLAND

HOW ARE WE DOING?

REPORT 2015/2016
Since 2012/13 the number of referrals to the organ donation service has risen by 39%.

In 2015/16, the number of patients admitted to Intensive Care Units with head injuries causing death decreased by 13% compared with 2014/15. This resulted in a reduction in potential for donation after DBD.

Over the same period, the number of referrals for consideration of DCD increased by 30.5%.

The NHS Organ Donor Register must always be checked prior to speaking to a family about donation.

Acceptance criteria for organs changes frequently and can depend on how sick someone is on the waiting list. If in doubt, contact the Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation on 07659 594979.

The combined authorisation rate for DCD and DBD has increased from 53.9% in 2014/15 to 57.1%. While this is good news, the rate is lower than it was in 2013/14.

Scotland has set an ambitious target to increase authorisation rates to 85% (DBD) and 80% (DCD) by 2020. Unless there is a revolution in attitudes to organ donation, people waiting for a transplant will continue to die.

Authorisation rates are higher when Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation are involved in the family approach. They can be contacted 24/7 on 07659 594979.

Due to the increased number of referrals, more families than ever before were approached and went on to authorise donation, resulting in more organs being available for transplant.
• To be a deceased organ donor, an individual generally has to die in an intensive care unit (ICU). Only around 1% of all deaths in Scotland occur in circumstances that allow donation to proceed.

• In 2015/16 fewer patients were diagnosed as brain stem dead in Scottish ICUs. Therefore the number of actual donors remained fairly static. This is despite the fact that this year saw the highest ever number of patients entering the donation process but, for a variety of clinical reasons many of them were unable to donate.

• The number of living donors has remained relatively static for the last 3 years.

• Around 540 patients in Scotland are currently waiting for a transplant. The majority of these people (397) are waiting for a kidney.

• Just under 2.3 million people in Scotland have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register, giving hope to those who are waiting for a transplant.

• In 2015/16:
  - 331 transplants were undertaken from deceased donors and 84 from living donors (kidney or liver lobe);
  - 260 people received a kidney transplant – up from 212 in 2012/13. This means they no longer have to attend hospital for dialysis 3 times per week or undertake another form of renal replacement therapy.

• In the past 10 years, more than 500 people in Scotland have become living kidney donors. Almost half of all kidney transplants now come from living donors, which is great news because living donations can lead to better results for patients.
• Tissue donation after death includes the potential of donating life-saving heart valves and skin and life-enhancing tendons and corneas. There is an unmet clinical demand for some tissue in Scotland.

• Unlike organ donation, tissue donation can take place up to 48 hours after death.

• Tissue donor referrals dropped to 103 referrals in 2014/15. With increasing awareness of the importance of tissue donation, in 2015/16 there were 166 referrals to the tissue donation service – a 61% increase.

• There is always a Tissue Donor Co-ordinator on call in Scotland and they are happy to provide donation advice to Healthcare Professionals. They can be contacted 24/7 on 07659 107029.

• Tissue donors may be tissue-only donors or they may have also donated organs. As tissue donation can take place up to 48 hours after death, tissue donation may be possible in some patients where organ donation is not.

• Following a year on year drop in tissue donor numbers since 2012/13, numbers are increasing, with a 12% increase in 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

• The 48 tissue donors in 2015/16 donated 76 heart valves and 100 tendons between them. Each tissue donor has the potential to help several patients.

For more detailed information please visit NHSBT statistics page for annual activity reports www.organdonation.nhs.uk/statistics