ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SCOTLAND

HOW ARE WE DOING?

REPORT 2018/2019

www.organdonationscotland.org


Since 2015/16 there has been a slight increase in the number of DNC and a slight decrease in DCD referrals.

There were still some potential donors that were not referred in 2018/19 and it is likely that many of these missed referrals would not have been suitable to donate due to co-existing medical conditions. Nonetheless, it remains important to make sure no opportunities for donation are missed.

Acceptance criteria for organs change frequently and can depend on how sick someone is on the transplant waiting list. If in doubt as to whether to refer a patient, contact the NHS Organ Donor Referral Line on 03000 20 30 40.

The NHS Organ Donor Register must always be checked by a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation prior to approaching a family about donation.

- In 2018/19 the combined authorisation rate for DCD and DNC was 64%. The rate is slightly higher than it was in 2017/18 however it is far short of the ambitious target Scotland has set to increase authorisation rates to 85% for DNC donors and 80% for DCD donors by 2020.

- Authorisation rates for potential DNC donors were still good, at 73%, but were disappointing for DCD donors, at 55%. Further work is being taken forward in 2019/20 to try to increase DCD authorisation rates.

- Unless there is a revolution in attitudes to organ donation, people on the transplant waiting lists will continue to die. Last year 10 families of people on the Organ Donor Register overturned their loved one’s decisions to donate. It is vital that families discuss organ and tissue donation in life and make their decision known to their loved ones so that it can be honoured in the event of their death.
Deceased Donor Transplants*
Living Donor Transplants*

- Only around **1% of all deaths in Scotland** occur in circumstances that **allow deceased organ donation to proceed** and one deceased donor can help save the lives of up to **nine people** and save or enhance the lives of many more through tissue donation.
- There was a slight decrease in the number of deceased donations compared to 2017/18, however in 2018/19 there were **46** authorised donors that did not proceed.
- On the other hand, 2018/19 was an exceptional year for living donation in Scotland with **the number of living kidney donors increasing** as a result of the ongoing collaborative work to raise awareness of living donation.
- There were **28** living donor kidney transplants via the kidney sharing scheme in 2018/19 compared to **10** in 2017/18.
- In 2018/19, **9** living people in Scotland donated a kidney to a stranger (altruistic donation).
- For more information on living donation visit [www.livingdonationscotland.org](http://www.livingdonationscotland.org).

Around **580** people in Scotland are currently waiting for a transplant. The majority of them are waiting for a kidney transplant.

Just over **2.5 million** people in Scotland have joined the NHS Organ Donor Register, giving hope to those who are waiting for a transplant. This is **48%** of the population in Scotland.

In 2018/19 **439** people in Scotland received a transplant:
- **278** received a kidney transplant.
  - This means they no longer have to attend hospital for dialysis three times per week or undertake another form of renal replacement therapy
- **114** received a liver transplant
- **15** received a kidney and pancreas transplant
- **11** received a heart transplant
- **14** received a lung or combined heart and lung transplant
- **7** received islet cell transplants
- The increase in living donor transplants is great news because living donor transplants lead to better results for patients.
Tissue donation after death includes the potential of donating life-saving heart valves and life-enhancing tendons and corneas.

In 2018/19, 81 people in Scotland donated their eyes, some of whom also donated organs or other tissue.

Following the temporary suspension of tendon donation during the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) move to new premises between 2017-2018, the tendon retrieval service will resume in summer 2019. This means that the figures for 2018/19 do not reflect the true tissue potential in Scotland.

There is always a Tissue Donor Co-ordinator on call in Scotland; they are happy to provide donation advice to Healthcare Professionals. They can be contacted 24/7 on 07623 513987.

Unlike organ donation, tissue donation can take place up to 24 hours after death for eyes and up to 48 hours after death for heart valves and tendons.

Many tissue donors are also organ donors and 60% of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service tissue donors were also organ donors in 2018/19.

There is still an unmet clinical demand for heart valves, corneas and occasionally tendons.