

Information for families and substitute decision makers

The decision to donate your loved one's organs or honour their wish to be an organ donor is very courageous.

The ability to donate organs is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Several factors are considered when matching donors to recipients:

- Past medical history
- Personal history
- In-hospital testing

Not every organ will be suitable for transplant and it is not certain that a potential donor will have a matching recipient.



The decision to donate has given hope to those waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

Please talk to a member of the health care team if you require additional support or have any questions.

For more information about organ and tissue donation, contact us:

blood.ca/organs-tissues



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Medical management of deceased organ donors

Donation following neurological determination of death

This brochure provides general information about procedures that may be used to evaluate and prepare your loved one's organs for donation.

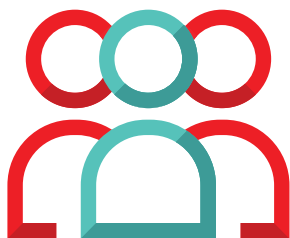
The actions performed will vary based on the organ(s) being donated and changes that may occur in the body following neurological determination of death ("brain death").

Once brain death occurs, the body may have difficulty regulating:

- Blood pressure
- Heart rate
- Electrolytes
- Fluid balance
- Body temperature

Measures to help correct these changes may include:

- IV fluids and medications
- Nutritional support
- Temperature management



Caring for the donor

During the donation process, ongoing care and monitoring will take place in the intensive care unit until the time of organ recovery. This care includes:

- Basic hygiene
- Turns/shifting in the bed
- Observing vital signs
- Use of a mechanical ventilator
- Possible tube feeding

Assessments

Blood, sputum, and urine will be collected to identify and treat infections, if present.

Possible tests to assess organ structure and function, include:

- Ultrasound
- CT scan
- X-Ray
- Echocardiogram and/or angiogram, if the heart is considered for donation
- Bronchoscopy, if the lungs are considered for donation

If you have any questions about the tests being performed, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the health care team.

Organ donation and recovery is a time-sensitive process. The timing of organ recovery is coordinated with the family/substitute decision maker(s), the health care team and the transplant surgeons, as well as the recipient(s).

This process will take some time. The health care team will keep you updated along the way.

Notes:
