



PAEDIATRIC AND NEONATAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

Summary Guidance for staff in Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care Units and other Departments who may work with critically ill children or babies

Executive Summary

There is a significant shortage of donor organs and some tissue in the UK, which means that many people are having to wait a long time for a life-saving or life-changing organ or sometimes tissue transplant. And some people are still dying while waiting. Therefore it is important to ensure that everyone who could potentially be a deceased donor is considered.

If you work in an **Intensive Care Unit or Emergency Department**, the most important point to remember is that **donation should start to be considered at an early stage** when you think a patient may die and you should always **check with a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation (SNOD) or Tissue Donor Coordinator (TDC) to see if donation may be possible**, even if you think it's unlikely that they could donate. They will be able to tell you quite quickly by phone if the child or baby could be a potential donor and this early screening call will help to ensure that no potential donor is missed.

Contact Numbers

If you have a patient who could be a potential donor - i.e. if you plan or expect to withdraw life sustaining treatment soon or plan to do brain-stem death testing on the patient, please contact a SNOD in the first instance on the number below. However, if your patient has already suffered circulatory death, please contact a TDC on the number below as tissue donation may still be possible (tissue can be retrieved up to 48 hours after death).

SNOD pager (24 hours a day, 7 days per week) - 03000 20 30 40

TDC Tissue services pager (24 hours a day, 7 days per week) - 07623 513987

Next Steps

If your patient could be a potential donor, the SNOD or TDC will guide you through the next steps. They will agree with you when and how to discuss donation with the child or baby's family. If the parents (or other person with parental rights and responsibilities) are content to authorise organ or tissue donation, the SNOD or TDC will then lead on making arrangements and they will let you know what you or your colleagues need to do to assist with preparations.