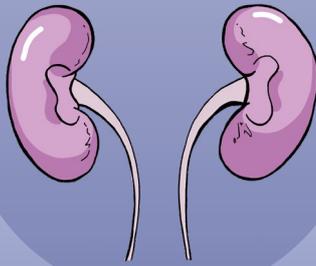


The law around organ donation in England has changed

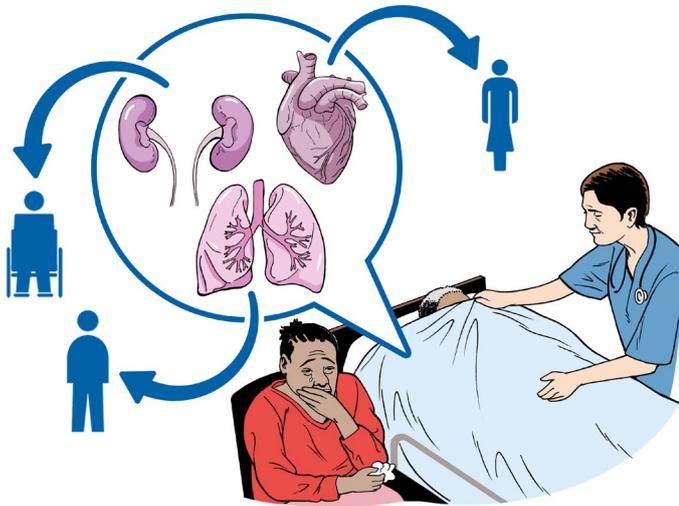
This leaflet explains your choices



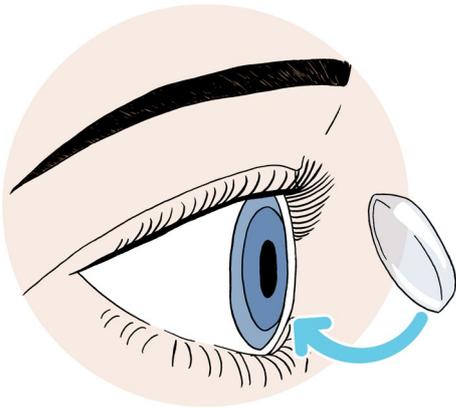
easy
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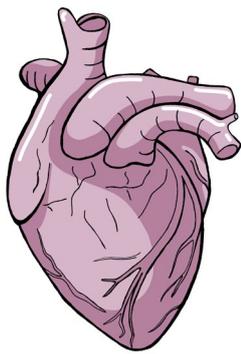
What is organ and tissue donation?



Organ and tissue donation is giving your organs or tissues to help save or improve the lives of others when you die.



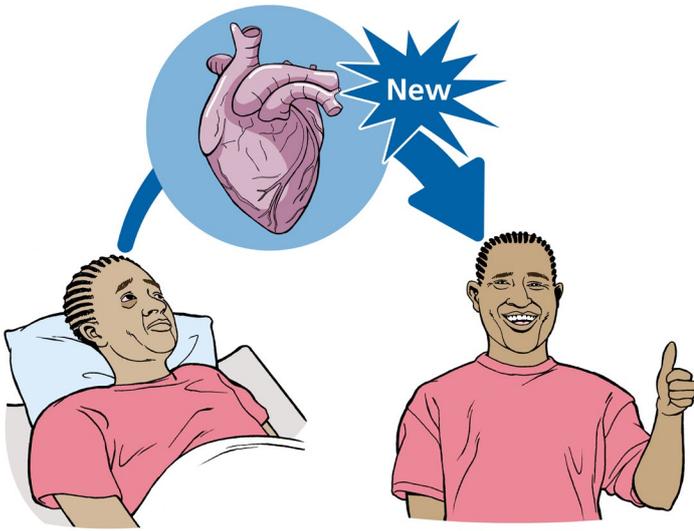
Tissues are groups of cells that work together to do a job in the body, like corneas in the eye.



Organs are made up of more than one kind of tissue and have an important job to do, like the heart.



One person who donates their organs can save or improve the lives of up to nine people.



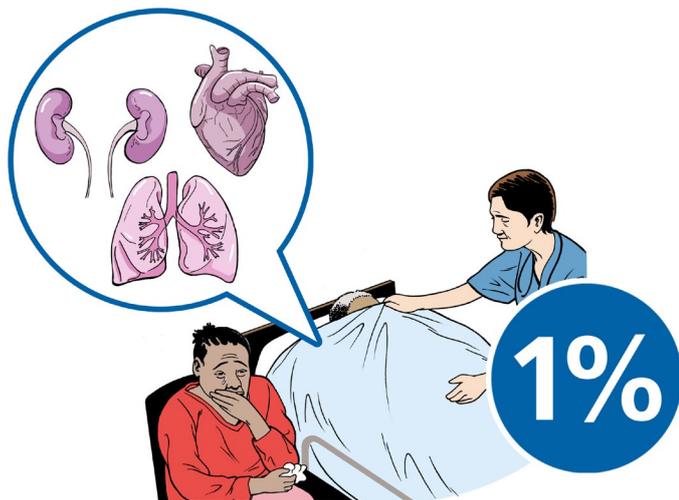
Tissue transplants can also improve a person's quality of life.

For example a replacement heart valve to treat a heart defect.

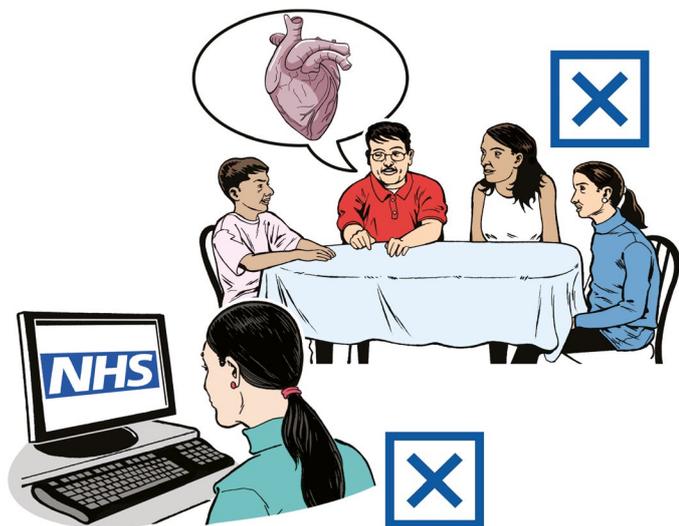
Why has the law around organ donation changed?



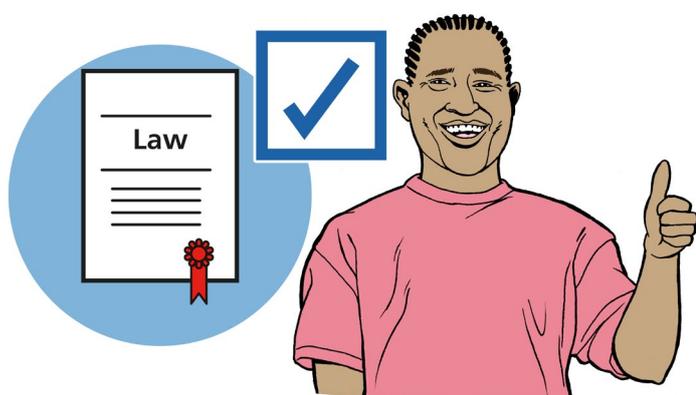
Every day someone dies in the UK because they need an organ, but not enough organs are available for transplant.



But only 1% of people die in a way that would allow them to donate.

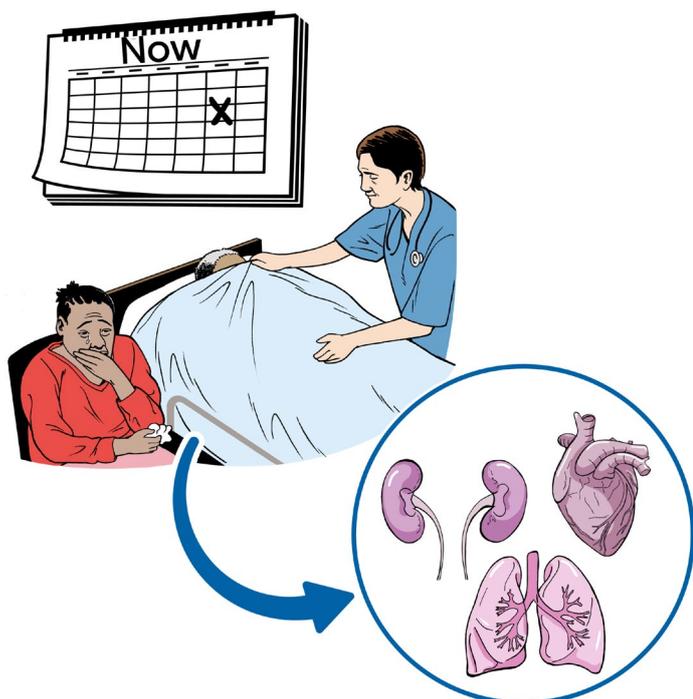


Most people would like to donate their organs after their death but many people do not sign the NHS Organ Donor Register or tell their family.



The change in law helps with this problem and will help save and improve more lives.

What has changed?

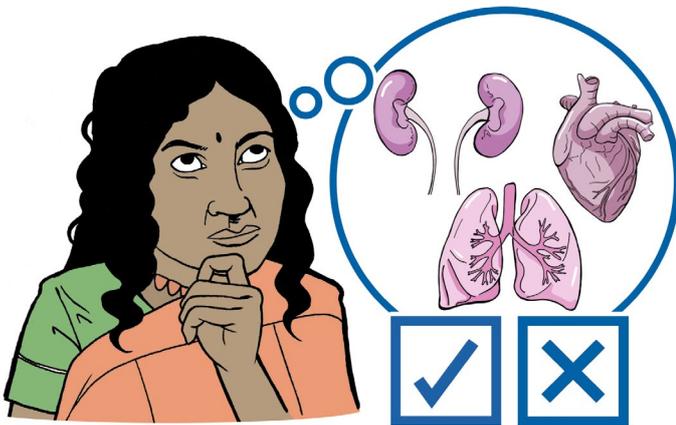


There is now an 'opt out' system for organ donation in England.

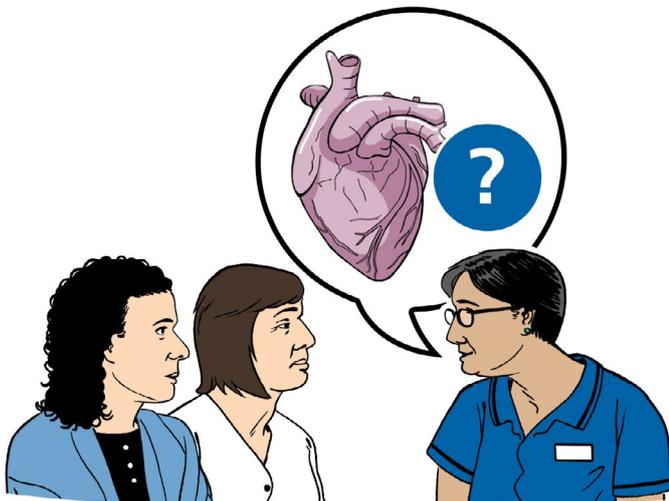
This means most people who can, will donate their organs when they die. Unless they have said they don't want to by recording this on the NHS Organ Donor Register or by telling their family.



There are some groups of people that this won't apply to. See 'Who does this change affect?' on page 7.

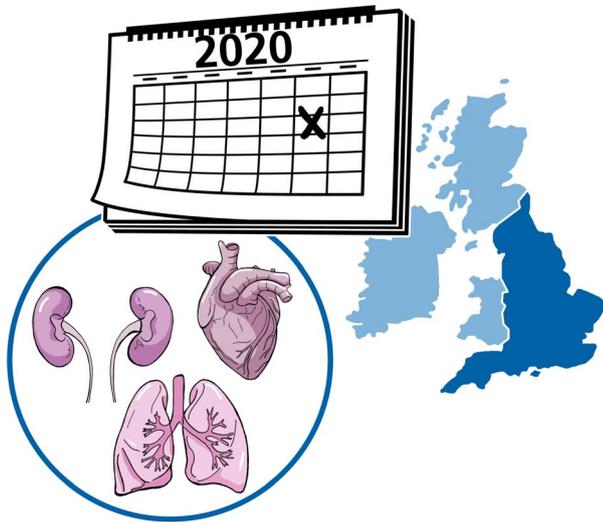


Organ donation is a kind thing to do for other people and you still have the right to choose whether or not to be an organ donor.



Your family will still be asked about donating your organs when you die.

When did the law around organ donation change?

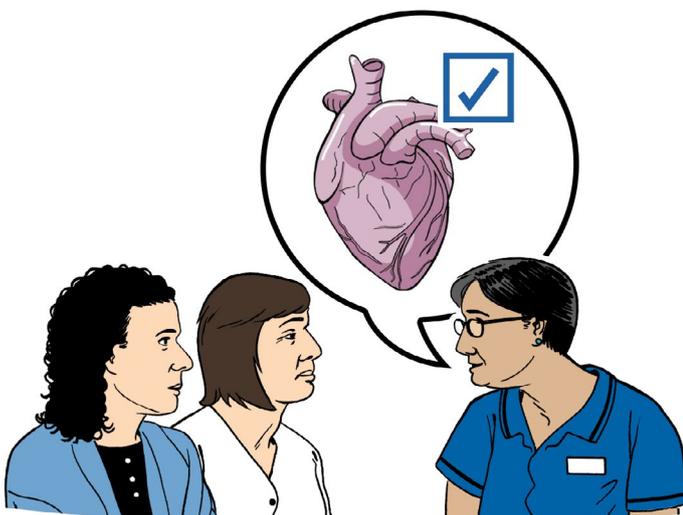


The 'opt out' system came into effect in England on 20th May 2020.



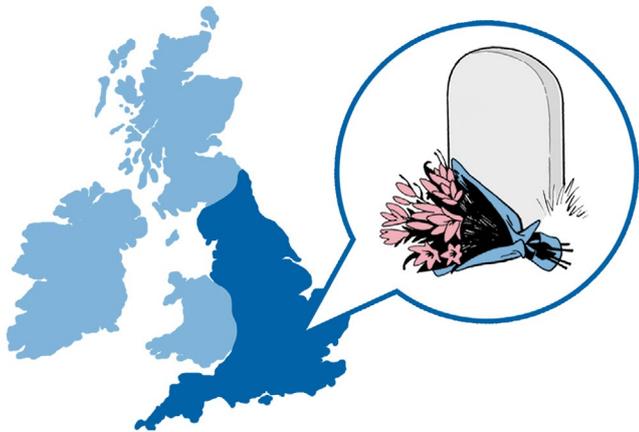
If you die and may be able to donate, medical staff will check the NHS Organ Donor Register to see if you have said you would like to donate your organs.

If you have, then your family will be asked to support this.



If you have not registered as a donor, or you have not told your family if you want to be a donor, then organ donation will be discussed with your family and your organs may be donated.

Who does this change affect?

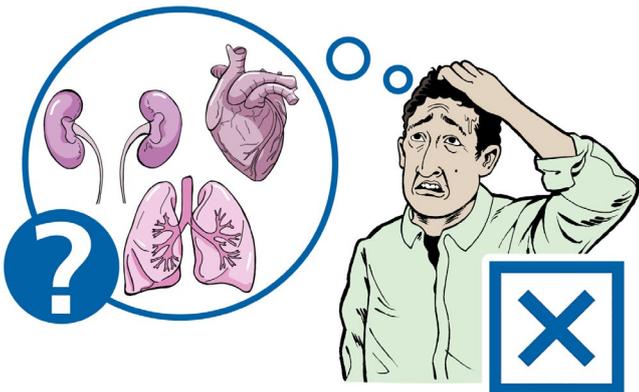


The new law applies to adults in England, who also die in England.

It does not apply to these excluded groups:



- people under 18



- people who don't have the mental capacity to understand what organ donation is and how the law has changed

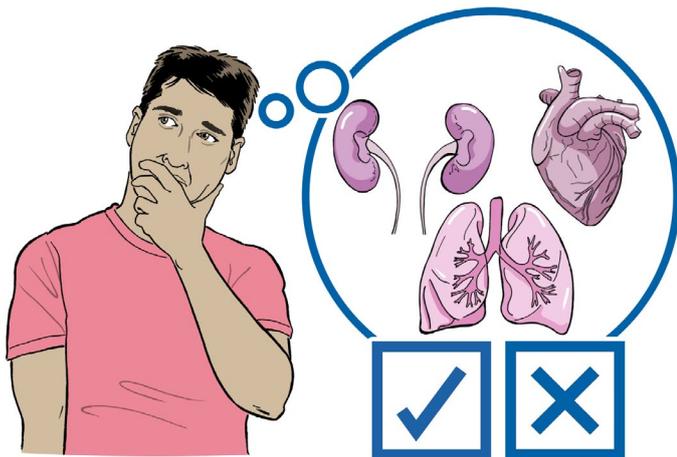


- people who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death

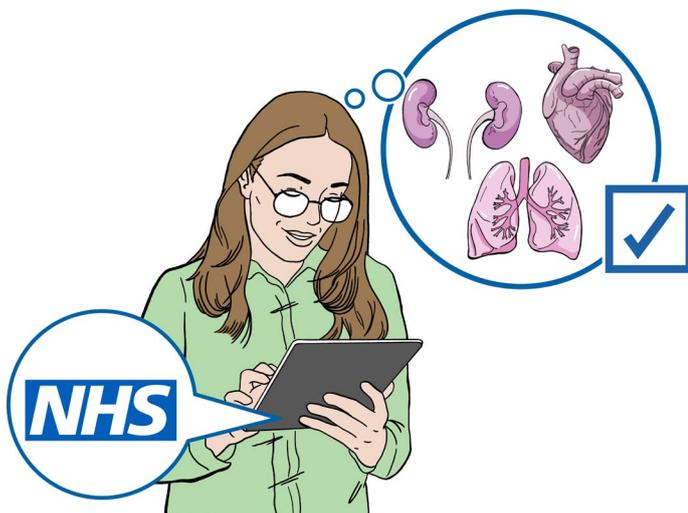


- people who are not living in England voluntarily, like soldiers from another country who are serving in England.

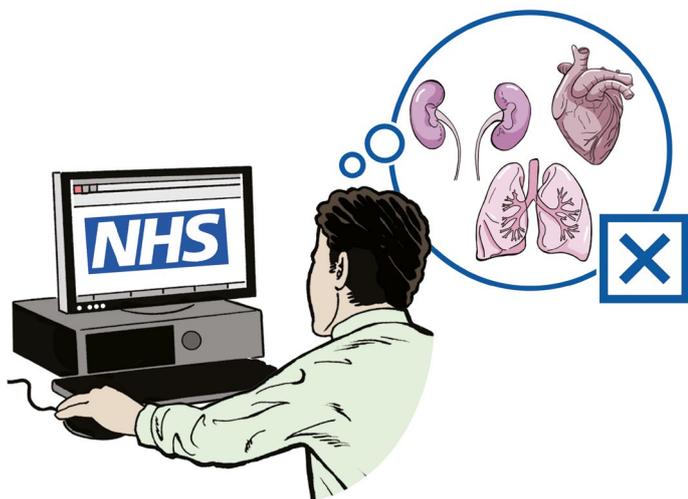
What do I have to do?



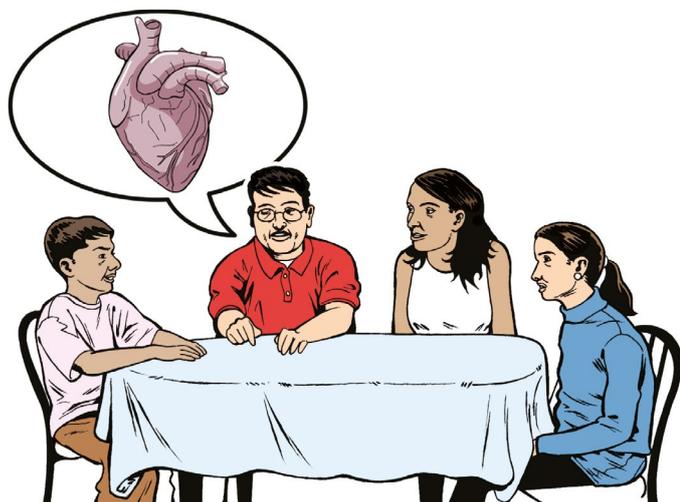
We would like everybody to decide whether they want to be an organ donor and to share their decision with their family.



If you do want to be an organ donor, you can register to be a donor on the NHS Organ Donor Register.



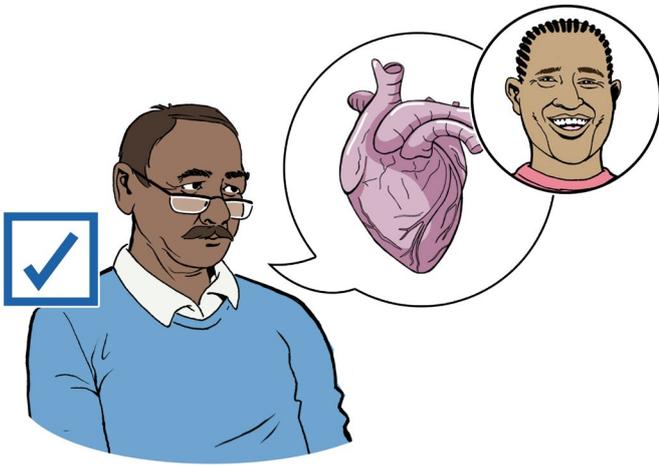
If you do not want to be an organ donor, you can opt out by registering a 'do not donate' decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.



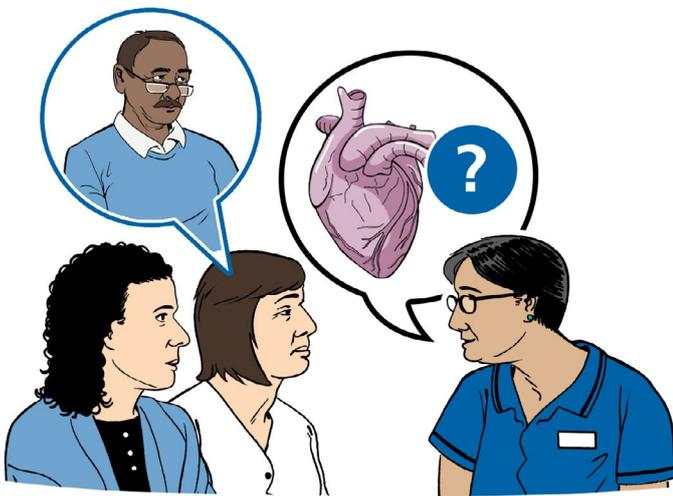
If you have already registered your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and your decision remains the same, you should tell your family what you want.



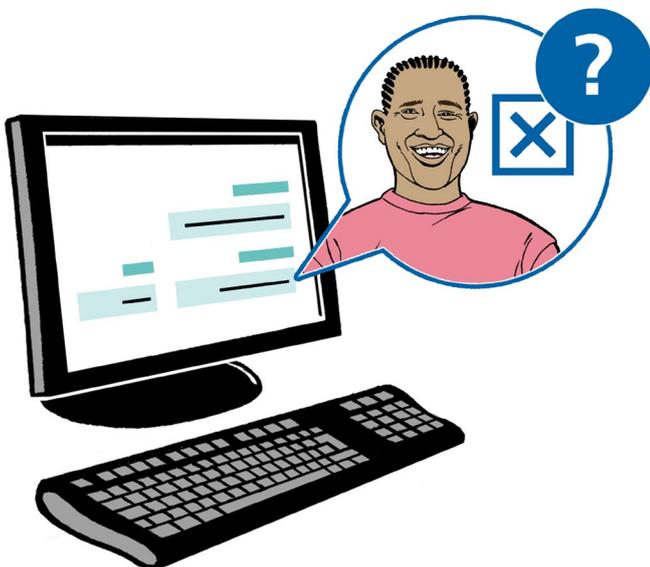
If you have already registered, but want to change your recorded decision, you can do this by completing the 'amend your details' form online.



You can decide you want someone else to make the decision for you. This can be any person you trust to make the decision.



If you do, this person will be asked about the decision instead of your family.

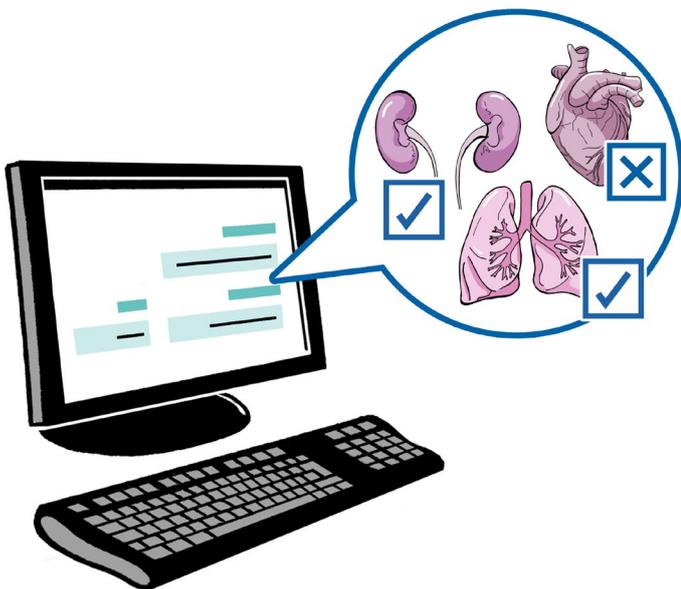


We understand that you may want to be removed from the register. If you withdraw from the register, we will not have a decision about organ donation for you on file.

What is the NHS Organ Donor Register?



The NHS Organ Donor Register is a secure database that has the details of all those who have registered a decision about organ donation.

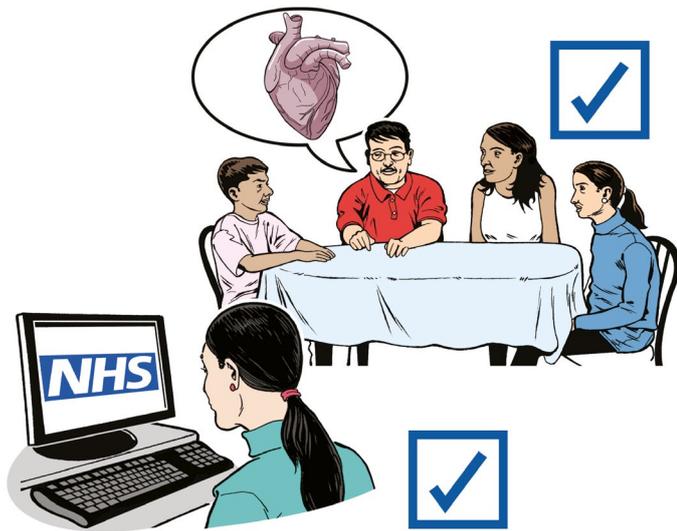


It says whether or not someone wants to be an organ and tissue donor.

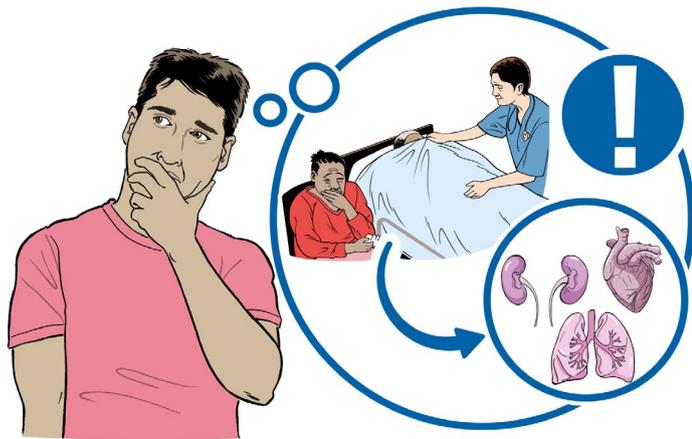
For those who want to donate, it records which organs and tissues they want to donate.



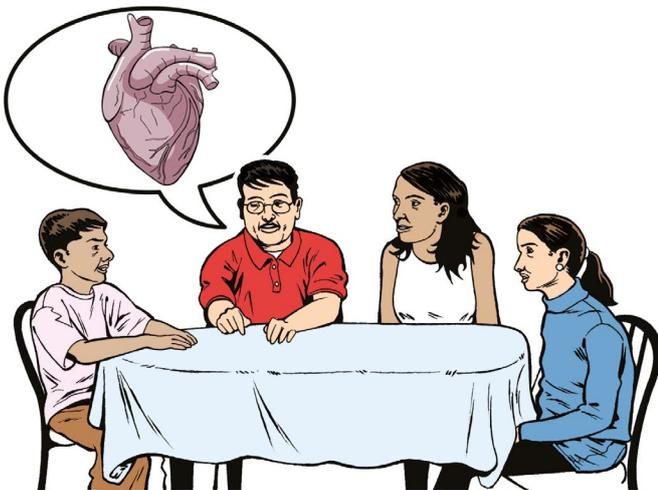
The Register can only be accessed by specialist NHS staff.



Recording your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and telling your family what you want are the best ways to make sure your decision is supported.



Remember, if you are over 18-years-old when you die, are not in an excluded group and have not opted out, your organs may be donated.

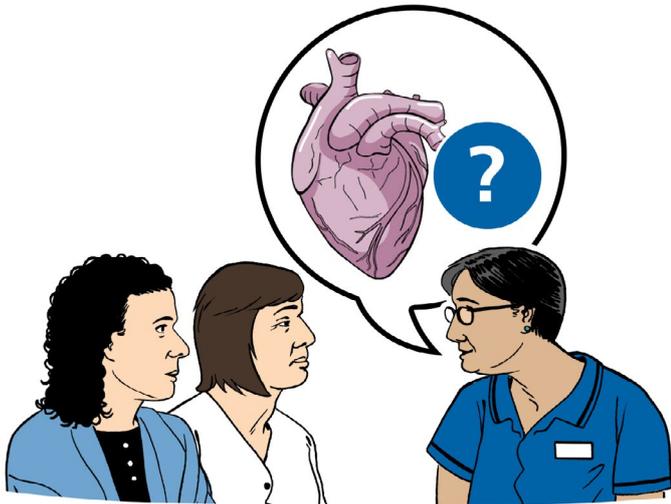


Whatever you choose, it's important to tell your family. You should also tell them if you change your mind.

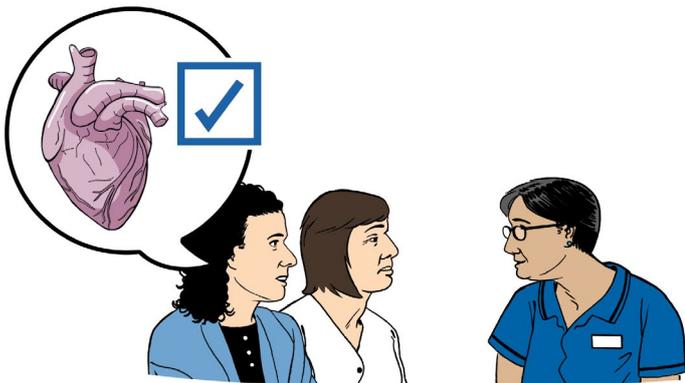


To register your decision visit organdonation.nhs.uk or call 0300 123 23 23

Will my family still be asked about donating my organs?



Yes. Organ and tissue donation will always be discussed with the family of a possible donor.



This helps to make sure that any decision recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register is your latest known decision.



Your family can tell us about any special requests or requirements you may have had to help make sure that organ donation goes ahead in line with your faith or beliefs.



Your family can also give important information about your medical, travel and social history too to check that your organs can safely be given to someone else.

Find out more about your choices

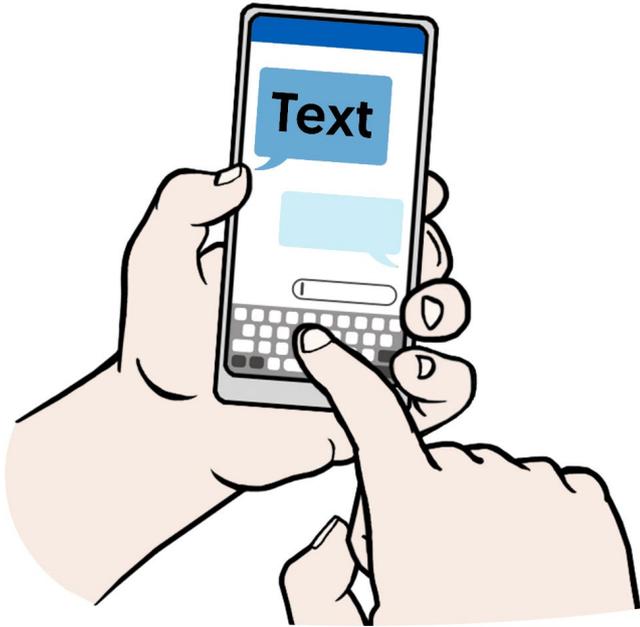


There is a lot more information about organ and tissue donation on our website:
organdonation.nhs.uk

and on social media
[@NHSOrganDonor](https://twitter.com/NHSOrganDonor)



If you can't find what you need on the website or are still unsure, you can call our helpline:
[0300 123 23 23](tel:03001232323)



If you are hard of hearing please use our text relay service:

[18001 0845 730 0106](tel:1800108457300106)

To use text chat please SMS text: [07860 034 343](tel:07860034343)



You can also use the NHS App to register your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

You can download the NHS App from the App Store or Google Play.

“When I got the call it was like a miracle.

I cannot thank my donor enough for giving me a second chance at life.”



Hilaria waited six years for a kidney transplant.

Andrew donated his wife's organs.



“It's a comfort to know that other people have benefited as a result of Leslie dying.

We'd had the conversation about organ donation, so it was the easiest decision to make, because I knew it was what Leslie wanted.”

