

Condensed summary lesson:  
**Organ and tissue  
donation stories**



## Lesson outcomes

- To be able to describe how organ and tissue donation saves and improves lives
- To be able to explain some of the reasons why people decide to become organ and tissue donors
- To understand why people join the NHS Organ Donor Register and why donor families support their loved one's decision to donate their organs and tissues.
- To understand how to talk to people about organ and tissue donation
- To understand the decision to donate is their own, and the importance of sharing that decision.



Activity 1: True or false Organ and tissue donation quiz  
What do you know?

Statement	True	False
1. The kidney, liver and heart are the only organs that can be donated.		
2. Most people would consider donating their organs and tissues but few have told their families.		
3. Around 6,000 people in the UK are in need of an organ transplant.		
4. Having a medical condition prevents you from becoming an organ or tissue donor.		
5. On average three people die every week in need of a transplant.		
6. Age is a barrier to organ and tissue donation.		
7. You need to be registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register to be a donor.		
8. A child's donated organs go to a child recipient.		
9. One organ donor can save one life.		
10. All major religions in the UK support the principles of organ and tissue donation.		
11. People who wear glasses can't donate their corneas.		

## Activity 1: True or false Organ and tissue donation quiz

### What do you know?

Statement	True	False	Reason
1. The kidney, liver and heart are the only organs that can be donated.		✓	The organs that can be donated include kidney, liver, heart, lungs and small bowel and tissues such as corneas, heart valves, skin and bone.
2. Most people would consider donating their organs and tissues but few have told their families.	✓		More than 25 million people have registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register. However, people often do not talk to their families about their decision.
3. Around 6,000 people in the UK are in need of an organ transplant.		✓	There are currently around 6,000 people in the UK on the transplant waiting list but many more are in need of an organ transplant.
4. Having a medical condition prevents you from becoming an organ or tissue donor.		✓	Not necessarily. At your time of death, a qualified health professional responsible for your care will decide whether some or all organs or tissues are suitable for transplantation.
5. On average three people die every week in need of a transplant.		✓	On average three people die every day in need of a transplant because there aren't enough organ donors.

Statement	True	False	Reason
6. Age is a barrier to organ and tissue donation.		✓	There is no age limit for donating. With your family's support, healthcare professionals decide to use your organs and/or tissue based on strict medical criteria, not age, and will determine whether your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation when you die.
7. You need to be registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register to be a donor.		✓	While you do not need to be registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register to be an organ donor. Recording your decision on the register will help medical professionals to <b>support</b> your donation decision should you die in circumstances where you may be able to donate. Whatever your organ donation decision, it is vital that you tell your family and friends, so they can support what you want.
8. A child's donated organs go to a child recipient.		✓	A child's donated organs can go to an adult too.
9. One organ donor can save one life.		✓	One organ donor can save or transform up to nine lives.
10. All major religions in the UK support the principles of organ and tissue donation.	✓		All major religions and belief systems in the UK support organ donation and transplantation and accept that organ donation is an individual choice. However, sometimes a person may think their faith doesn't allow donation and this stops them agreeing to donate their organs. So, NHS Blood and Transplant work with faith leaders and communities to raise awareness and build trust.
11. People who wear glasses can't donate their corneas.		✓	Most people can become eye donors – it doesn't matter if you have poor eye sight, you could still donate.

## Activity 2: Life stories

### Discuss why organ and tissue donation is important

#### Task 1:

Go to [nhsbt.nhs.uk/teaching-resources](https://nhsbt.nhs.uk/teaching-resources) to watch the summary film about Jess, Charles, Ollie and Dawn's son Harry-James and answer the questions on your activity sheet.

#### Task 2:

With a partner, go through the questions and compare your answers.  
Do you agree or disagree with any of the answers?

#### Task 3:

Have any of these stories inspired you? Has anything surprised you?  
Discuss with your partner.



### Activity 3:

**Consider how organ and tissue donation can help improve and save people's lives**

**Your poster should include the following keywords:**

- Organ and tissue donor, organ and tissue recipient, transplant, transplant waiting list, the NHS Organ Donor Register.

**Questions the poster should address:**

- Why is organ and tissue donation important?
- Why do people want to become organ and tissue donors?
- Why is there a need for more donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities?
- How could we raise awareness of the need for more organs and tissues and encourage more people to become donors?



### **Activity 3:**

## **Consider how organ and tissue donation can help improve and save people's lives**

You will be asked to read another group's poster and give some constructive feedback. As you read the poster, consider how the poster shows the importance of organ and tissue donation. Also prepare thoughts on how the poster could be improved.

### **Comment on what went well:**

Does the poster clearly illustrate the importance of organ and tissue donation?

### **Make suggestions about how it could be even better:**

Could the messages on the poster be more impactful perhaps?



Activity 4: Looking back on the lesson

What do you think about organ and tissue donation?

Read each statement and give a score from 1 to 5, where 1 means you strongly agree and 5 means you strongly disagree.

Statement	Score
I think this topic we covered today is very important.	
I feel I have better knowledge and understanding on organ and tissue donation.	
I feel more confident talking to a friend about organ and tissue donation.	
I am more likely to go home and talk to my family and friends about organ and tissue donation.	
I think the lesson about organ and tissue donation covered the topic in enough detail.	
Before the lesson I never considered the topic of organ and tissue donation.	
It is important to save and improve the lives of people needing a transplant.	
The group activities today encouraged me to talk about organ and tissue donation.	
I know where I can independently find out more about organ and tissue donation e.g. websites.	