

Objective

To describe the process for facilitating a forearm sentinel skin flap donation

Changes in this version

[Change of obsolete document reference](#)

Roles

- SNOD/SR to identify multivisceral donor and consent for multivisceral and skin flap donation
- NORS team to facilitate organ donation
- Oxford Recipient centre to co-ordinate forearm sentinel skin flap retrieval.
- Hub Operations to mobilise NORs retrieval team. If applicable, to offer sentinel skin flap to approved research studies

Restrictions

- This SOP is to be followed by a qualified and trained SNOD/SR. In the event of a SN-OD/SR who is in training, this SOP is to be utilised under supervision.
- Deemed consent does not cover consent for novel transplants, however consent for organs and/or tissues for novel transplants, is still possible. This requires explicit consent from the family member in the Highest Qualifying Relationship (HQR).
- Consent for multivisceral and skin flap donation may occur nationally

Instructions

The patient is referred as a potential DBD donor who may be considered for forearm sentinel skin flap donation to support multivisceral transplantation.

Please note: Deemed consent does not cover consent for novel transplants, however consent for organs and/or tissues for novel transplants, is still possible. This requires explicit consent from the family member in the Highest Qualifying Relationship (HQR).



Apply absolute and organ specific contraindications (**POL188**).



Consent/authorisation for multivisceral organs donation is gained:

- Approach for possibility of forearm skin flap donation to support multivisceral transplantation
- They do not have to consent to skin flap donation if they do not feel comfortable with this.

Consenting/Authorising for forearm skin flap and multivisceral donation:

- Consent/authorise the family ensuring they are informed that the forearm skin flap donation is routinely taken to support the multivisceral organs as a method of monitoring rejection of the multivisceral transplant.

Information to be given to family for skin flap donation:

- The forearm skin flap size is approximately 12cm x 4cm and includes underlying tissues and vessels. The skin flap may be taken from either the right or left forearm. The skin flap team will ensure a high standard of cosmetic closure and it will have a dressing in place.
- Forearm skin flap donation may not occur as this will only proceed if the multivisceral organs are accepted by one specific Recipient Centre.
- If there is family consent/authorisation for tissues/organs to be used for scheduled/other purposes if removed and subsequently found to be untransplantable, the forearm skin flap will be offered out to approved research studies on the NHSBT research registry.

SOP5048/6.2 – Forearm Sentinel Skin Flap Donation to Detect Rejection



Blood and Transplant
Copy No:
Effective date: 29/03/2022

Consent/authorisation documentation:

Document the multivisceral forearm sentinel skin flap consent in the 'other' box in the organs section of consent form (**FRM4281**).

Or if applicable -

Document the multivisceral forearm skin flap authorisation in the multivisceral box on the Authorisation Form (**FRM1538**).

This is to be documented as 'forearm sentinel skin flap'.



If referring to the coroner/ Procurator Fiscal, please ensure forearm sentinel skin flap is included in the request (MPD865).



Register the donor with ODT Hub Operations and advise them of the consent/authorisation for forearm sentinel skin flap, should the multivisceral organs be accepted by Oxford.



ODT Hub Operations will commence organ offering (**MPD1199**).



Have the multivisceral organs been accepted by Oxford?



YES



NO



Stand down on forearm skin flap donation.

- Hub Operations mobilises the NORS team/s.
- Oxford Recipient co-ordinator identifies if the multivisceral recipient has consented/authorised for forearm skin flap transplantation, contacts the SNOD and mobilises Oxford skin flap team (if required).
- If Oxford abdominal NORS team is being mobilised, they may choose to remove the forearm skin flap as part of their retrieval process. The Oxford NORS team should discuss this plan at handover with any other teams that are also attending.
- Should Oxford abdominal NORS team not be attending, the SNOD will advise the appropriate retrieving NORS team/s of the Oxford skin flap team attendance and the plan to remove the forearm skin flap during DBD abdominal organ donation (SOP5499).
- Should the NORS teams have any queries regarding the forearm skin flap retrieval they may discuss this directly with the Oxford skin flap team.



During retrieval:

- The donor needs to be positioned in theatre with their arm on an extension board to facilitate forearm skin flap donation.
- The forearm skin flap retrieval will be performed by Oxford NORS team or Oxford skin flap team and will take 30-45 minutes.
- The forearm skin flap closure will demonstrate a high standard of cosmetic closure and be dressed appropriately.
- Oxford NORS team are responsible for packing and packaging the skin flap when removed as additional tissue to support multivisceral donation.
- A copy of the corresponding HTA form will accompany the skin flap.

Post retrieval:

- The Oxford NORS team or skin flap team will document the retrieval in the hospital notes and complete a witness nine statement if required by the Coroner/Procurator Fiscal.
- The forearm skin flap will be transferred to Oxford, either with the Oxford NORS team, or if only the Oxford skin flap team have attended the forearm skin flap would travel with the other accepted organs to the Oxford Transplant Centre.

- Should the forearm skin flap be transferred to Oxford Recipient Centre and subsequently be deemed un-transplantable:
- The Recipient Centre will inform Hub Operations.
- If there is family consent/authorisation for tissues/organs to be used for scheduled /other purposes if removed and subsequently found to be untransplantable, the forearm skin flap will be offered out to approved research studies on the NHSBT research registry.
- Hub Operations will advise the accepting researcher of any family research consent/authorisation restrictions.
- If the family decline for untransplantable tissue/organs to be offered for scheduled/other purposes, the forearm sentinel skin flap will be disposed of at the recipient centre.
- The Recipient centre will complete a HTA-B form if not transplanting the forearm skin flap.



- Complete the SNOD to DRD handover form including forearm skin flap donation in the tissues/organs donated – ‘other’ section (**FRM5499**).
- If a multivisceral organ and forearm skin flap were donated, advise the family of this donation in the family letter, if they wish for this information (**SOP5818**).

End of Procedure

Definitions

- **SN-OD** – Specialist nurse – Organ Donation
- **SR** - Specialist Requester
- **DCD** – Donation after Circulatory Death
- **HTA** – Human Tissue Authority
- **DBD** – Donation after Brainstem death
- **NORS** – National Organ Retrieval Service

Related Documents / References

- **FRM4281** – Consent for Solid Organ and / or Tissue Donation
- **FRM1538** – Authorisation – Solid Organ and Tissue Donation
- [SOP5818 – Organ and Tissue Donation Consent Manual](#)
- **POL188** – Clinical Contraindications to Approaching Families for Possible Organ Donation
- **SOP5499** – Theatre Manual for Deceased Organ Donors
- **FRM5499** – SNOD to DRD Handover Form
- **MPD865** – Obtaining Coroner/Procurator Fiscal Decision
- **MPD1199** – Process Training – Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT)