

RESPONSE TO THE 10 YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR ENGLAND

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HELP BUILD
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CHANGE
NHS

What part should NHS Blood and Transplant play in the NHS 10 Year Health Plan?

NHS Blood and Transplant collects, manufactures and supplies blood, organs, tissues and stem cells to the NHS to save and improve the lives of patients. These are lifesaving products that can only be provided thanks to the generosity of donors and their families.

NHSBT is a **world-leader in innovation and transformation** – with further NHS and Government support we could be even more so.

As essential infrastructure to the NHS, NHSBT should be central to the 10 Year Health Plan.

There are four areas that could be transformed to save and improve even more lives:



Systemic changes that shift the dial on reducing the organ and tissue transplant waiting list

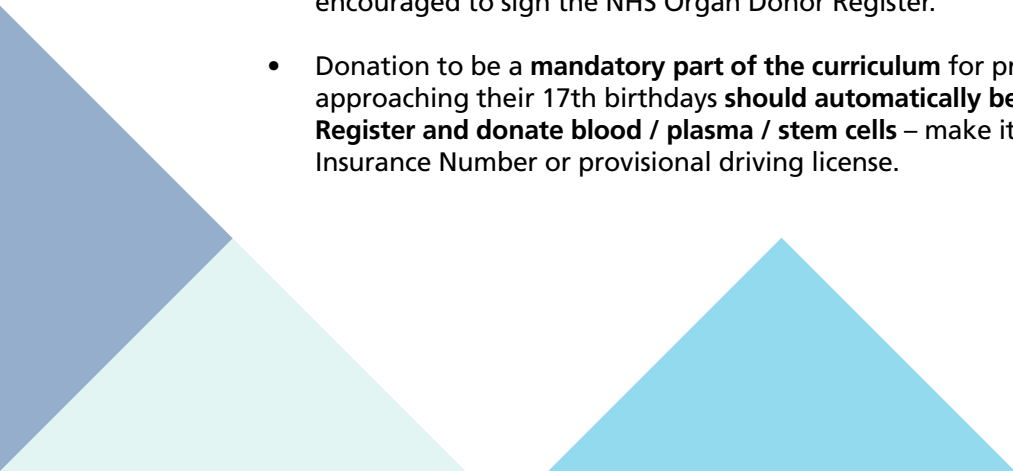
Right now, more than 7,500 patients are waiting for a lifesaving organ – it has grown by 31 per cent since 2019/20. Many of these lives can be saved by the NHS. A kidney transplant saves the NHS £230,000 per patient compared to the treatment they need on the waiting list. **To save more lives we need to:**

- **Modernise the NHS Organ Donor register to improve the data we gather.** Like any leading brand, we should have accounts so people can check and update their decisions.
- **Re-think the opt out law.** People don't know they still need to sign the register. Ninety per cent of families agree to donation if they knew what their loved ones wanted. It drops to 50 per cent if they hadn't signed the register. Alternatively, introducing a mandate to make a choice would ensure that everybody would have to record a decision.
- **Invest to save in innovations that preserve or treat organs** so they have a better chance of success. This will save lives, reduce health inequalities and deliver up to **£2.6 billion over 10 years in benefits to the UK economy**, including through the reduced costs of care for those waiting for a transplant.



A transformation in the way we speak to the public about donation

You are more likely to need a life saving organ than be asked to donate one. And you never know when you or a loved one are going to need a lifesaving blood transfusion. But the consent rate for organ donation is dropping and just two per cent of the population give blood. **To save more lives we need:**

- All Government agencies to have a **duty to promote donation** through their communications with the public and all **public servants should be allowed time off to donate** blood and be encouraged to sign the NHS Organ Donor Register.
 - Donation to be a **mandatory part of the curriculum** for primary school children. Young people approaching their 17th birthdays **should automatically be invited to sign the NHS Organ Donor Register and donate blood / plasma / stem cells** – make it as routine as receiving their National Insurance Number or provisional driving license.
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Support for more innovation – we can create new treatments and services at scale for NHS patients and help the UK to become more self-sufficient in blood and tissue products

There are three areas we currently have the ability and potential to scale up and create better treatments for the NHS in the future and therefore should be included in the 10 Year Health Plan:

- There is an opportunity to identify commercial opportunities to grow our **Cellular, Apheresis and Gene Therapy services** and income, to support innovation, drive improvements in patient experience and outcomes over the short, medium and long term and contribute to improved resilience of services.
- From January 2025, UK patients will start to receive lifesaving **medicines made from UK sourced plasma** for the first time in a generation. We are aiming to build to 30-35 per cent self-sufficiency from 2026 then, with support, beyond 35 per cent from 2030.
- Many NHS hospitals are supplied with **tissue products** by private companies who import tissue. If it was mandated that NHSBT is the preferred supplier for NHS organisations, we could grow the domestic supply of tissue products, reduce the reliance on imports (driving prices down) and create greater income to reinvest into organ and tissue donation and transplantation.



NHS-wide interoperability on blood supply to increase efficiency, productivity, safety and resilience

NHS hospitals run on different systems. A lot of blood information needs to be manually entered. We do not have visibility of hospital blood stocks, access to data that would help us better match patients' blood be more efficient and be resilient.

Key interventions include:

- **better hospital electronic blood management systems** such as **electronic systems for patient identification,**
- **blood sample collection and blood administration;**
- **blood fridges with integrated electronic tracking** ideally with remote blood issue capability; and
- **electronic blood ordering** with clinical decision support.

Genomics

And we can play a bigger role in spotting illnesses earlier and tackling the causes of ill health through increased investment and regulatory agility for genomic testing.

the UK is already a global leader in genomics, but this status will only be maintained in this rapidly developing field with continued investment and thriving partnerships between public and private sector.

At NHSBT, we possess world-leading expertise and infrastructure that uniquely position us to play a systems-leadership role in this field.

