

Case study:

# Izzy Sewell





## Meet Izzy

**Izzy, 20, from Dorset is currently on dialysis while she waits for a kidney transplant.**

Izzy was born with polycystic kidney disease, a genetic condition which causes small cysts to develop in the kidneys. At the age of 18, Izzy received the news that her kidneys were functioning at 8%. In a single moment her future changed and she understood why she'd been feeling so ill. She also learned that she would need regular dialysis until a transplant could be performed. However dialysis is only temporary and Izzy's condition will deteriorate over time.

Izzy now travels to hospital three times a week to receive haemodialysis for three and a half hours. She describes this as 'a process where my blood is pumped round my body through a line in my neck, then through a machine to get cleaned'.

Izzy wants to get on with her life. She wants to travel to Australia and Thailand to start a nursing course, but until she gets a transplant she has to stay close to home.

After seeing the impact that waiting for a transplant has had on her, Izzy's friends and family have all signed up to the NHS Organ Donor Register. Talking on the subject, Izzy says: "signing up doesn't affect your life now, but in the future you could transform someone else's".

To learn more about Izzy's story watch the film at [nhsbt.nhs.uk/teaching-resources](https://nhsbt.nhs.uk/teaching-resources)