

Organ Donation

Quick Reference



Capital Health

Every Nova Scotia resident has the right to be considered for organ donation when medically suitable. Accordingly, every potential donor's family should be offered this rare opportunity to save and touch the lives of potential recipients and families.

Potential Organ Donors:

- Severe, irreversible brain injury
- Must be ventilated
- Hemodynamically supported
- Plan to Withdraw Life Support
- There is no age limit
- Medical Examiner cases can be organ donors

Patients who meet the following criteria should be referred for assessment:

GCS < 5T

Irreversible Brain Injury

Ventilated

End of Life Discussion/Withdrawal of Life Support

Some conditions that may lead to irreversible brain injury:

- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Cerebral ischemia
- Anoxic Brain Injury

For Questions or Referral

Contact the on-call **Critical Care
Organ Donation Coordinator**

1-902-473-2220

Tissue Donation

Quick Reference



Capital Health

Every Nova Scotia resident has the right to be offered the option to consider tissue donation, when medically suitable. By not offering this option, you have already made the decision for the family.

Some contraindications to tissue donation:

- Greater than 80 years of age
- ALS, Parkinson's, MS, Alzheimer's, Dementia, CJD
- Sepsis
- Leukemia, Lymphoma, Melanoma
- Transmissible disease
- MRSA/VRE confirmed positive

Many deaths are eligible for tissue donation, including:

- Palliative Care
- Unexpected deaths
- Medical Examiner cases
- Withdrawal of Life Support

Desperately needed tissues:

- Corneas and sclera
- Bone and tendons
- Life saving skin
- Life saving heart valves

Approach

"You and your loved one have the opportunity to touch the lives of others through the gift of tissue donation".

For Questions or Referral

Contact the on-call **Tissue Bank Specialist**

1-902-473-2220