

# Have You Considered Tissue Donation?

Organ and tissue donation may be an option when considering end of life care wishes for yourself or someone you love.

Organ and tissue donation involves the recovery of organs and tissues from someone who has passed away. It is an option available to individuals and families who may wish to consider sharing the gift of life with others as part of end-of-life care. Donor families neither pay nor receive money for the act of organ and tissue donation.

There is a critical shortage of organs and tissues available for people requiring transplants. Organs and tissues are used for life-saving and life-enhancing transplant procedures which can improve the quality of life for many people.

**The gifts of one organ and tissue donor can dramatically improve the lives of more than 80 people.**



## **Can an individual with terminal illness, advanced disease, or cancer donate?**

Yes. Individuals 80 years of age or younger with a terminal illness, advanced disease or certain cancers may be eligible for eye and tissue donation. Organ donation may also be possible when a terminally ill person is being cared for in an intensive care unit. All potential organ and tissue donors are assessed on a case by case basis.



**Organ and Tissue Donation: Individuals with terminal illness, advanced disease, or cancer CAN donate.**

**Tissues which can be donated include:**

- **Eyes**- for sight-restoring surgeries
- **Skin**- to help burn patients
- **Bone and Tendons**- to aid bone repair or restore joint mobility
- **Heart for valves**- for life-saving heart repair procedures

**Is an open-casket funeral possible after organ and tissue donation?**

Yes. Open casket funerals are possible after organ and tissue donation. All efforts are made to ensure that there are no visible signs that donation has occurred. Donation should not interfere with any funeral arrangements that are made.

**What should I do if I'm interested or need more information?**

Discuss your wishes about donation with your family. This will help ensure that any final requests are honoured. The information on this leaflet has been provided to answer questions and to help you make an informed decision regarding donation. Please speak with your healthcare provider if this is an option for you.

For more information, please call **Comprehensive Tissue Centre**,  
Alberta Health Services at **780-407-7510**