



# A CHOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

*Declare your intention to Donate Organs and Tissues*

## INFORM YOURSELF, DECIDE AND SIGN.



### STARTING FROM TODAY, IT IS EASIER TO EXPRESS YOUR WILL ON ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION.

When you apply for a new identity card or in case of a renewal, you can ask to the civil registrar the organ donation form: fill it, sign it and give it to the civil registrar. Your choice will be sent to the Sistema Informativo Trapianti (SIT), the register of the Ministry of health which collects people willingness on organ and tissue donation. You can always change your mind: according to the Italian law, the last declaration released is valid for organ and tissue donation purposes.



### HOW AND WHERE THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES TO DECLARE

- 1 ► **Fill in and sign the form** of declaration at your local health service (ASL)
- 2 ► **Sign the “Associazione Italiana Donatori di Organi” (AIDO) holographic will**
- 3 ► **Fill in and sign** a card provided by Donors and Patients Associations, as well as the card of the Ministry of health. Remember to keep it always with you.
- 4 ► **Write your intention on a piece of paper** and remember to include your personal details, date and signature. Again, keep your declaration in your wallet.

WILL DECLARATIONS RELEASED AT REGISTRY OFFICE, ASL AND AIDO ARE REGISTERED IN SISTEMA INFORMATIVO TRAPIANTI (SIT), A CONFIDENTIAL, COMPUTERISED DATABASE WHICH HOLDS THE WISHES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DECIDED. THERE ARE NO AGE LIMIT TO DECLARE YOUR INTENTION REGARDING ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION.



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## WHY SHOULD YOU DONATE YOUR ORGANS AND TISSUES?

**Thousands of lives are saved every year thanks to the generosity** of those who have chosen to perform this act of love.

## WHEN DOES THE DONATION OCCUR?

After patient death has been confirmed due to a brain injury which provokes the irreversible end of cerebral functions.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BRAIN DEATH AND COMA?

**All functions are irreversibly lost in case of brain death.** A coma can be a reversible state.

## HOW DO DOCTORS ESTABLISH WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT A PERSON IS DEAD?

**Death is caused by a total and irreversible absence of cerebral functions**, caused by a prolonged stoppage of circulation for at least 20 minutes or severe injury to the brain. In these cases, **three specialists** (a forensic doctor, a intensivist/anesthesiologist and neurophysiologist eg experienced) **perform a series of clinical tests** to establish, for a period of at least 6 consecutive hours, the simultaneous absence of: reflexes that start directly from the brain, reactions to painful stimuli, spontaneous respiration, states of consciousness and any electrical activity of the brain.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN:

- **The person has signed a Declaration of Intent to make the donation:** in this case, family members cannot oppose it.
- **The person has signed a Declaration of Intent not to make the donation:** in this case, organs are not taken.
- **The person has not expressed intent:** in this case, organs may only be retrieved if the family members having the right to decide are not opposed.

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO KNOW WHO WILL RECEIVE THE TRANSPLANTED ORGANS?

**No. It is not possible to know the names of the donor or the recipient** because organs are assigned to patients on a waiting list based on conditions of urgency and the clinical and immunological compatibility of the persons awaiting a transplant.

## DO PATIENTS PAY TO RECEIVE AN ORGAN?

**No. Buying or selling human organs is illegal:** donations are always free and anonymous. The costs of transplants are paid by the National Health Service.

## WHAT IS THE AGE LIMIT FOR DONATING ORGANS AND TISSUES?

**There are no age limits:** in particular, the corneas and liver removed from donors older than age 80 are frequently suitable for being transplanted.

## HOW DO TRANSPLANT PATIENTS LIVE?

**The transplant allows them to resume a normal life.** Fertile persons can have children. Today, cases of rejection are increasingly rare and controllable with drugs.

## WHAT ORGANS AND TISSUES CAN BE DONATED BY A LIVING PERSON?

A kidney and part of the liver can be donated; haematopoietic stem cells (from bone marrow, peripheral blood and cord blood); the skin, placenta and bone segments. All other organs and tissues can be donated only after death.

## ARE THERE RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION?

**The main religions are favourable towards organ donation.** They all recommend that donation be a free choice and not forced.

ASL

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In collaboration with



REGIONE DEL VENETO

