

Organ Donation in the A&E

Only brain stem dead ventilated patients can go on to donate solid organs however almost all patients dying in general areas can become tissue donors. At present in the West of Scotland tissue donation is restricted to corneas and heart valves

	Corneas	Heart Valves
Age limits	1-no upper age limit	32 weeks-60 years
Time from death to removal of tissue	Up to 24 hours although within 12 hours of circulatory arrest if preferable	24 hours following circulatory arrest-may be performed at post mortem
Absolute contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous eye surgery or scarring of the cornea • Infectious disease • Neurological disease of unknown origin eg Alzheimer's • Haematological malignancies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septicaemia • Malignancy (except primary brain tumour, carcinoma in situ & rodent ulcer) • Valvular heart disease • Autoimmune disease

NO HISTORY OF OR RISK OF HIV, HEP B & HEP C

A **10 ml clotted blood sample** is required for virology screening and if a family have requested donation to take place in anticipation of a relative's death, this should be obtained pre-mortem and stored in a fridge.

There is no formal **consent** form for organ or tissue donation. It is sufficient for the doctor obtaining permission from the next of kin to document the conversation which took place in the case notes, naming the next of kin.

All organ and tissue donation in the West of Scotland is arranged by the regional transplant co-ordinators based at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. Any patient considered for donation should be referred to the on-call Transplant Co-ordinator who will make all the necessary arrangements, and is also available to offer advice about donor suitability and speak to relatives if necessary.

The Transplant Co-ordinator is available 24 hours via the Western Infirmary switchboard on 0141 211 2000