

9. ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION AND DONATION

9.1 Transplantation

Advances in medical science now make it possible to replace failing human organs. In fact, replacement of a kidney, cornea, heart or liver is no longer considered an experiment but a treatment choice. Organs and tissues that can be effectively transplanted are kidneys, hearts, lungs, livers, corneas, bones, joints, skin, pancreas, bone marrow and bowel. *Therefore, one person's decision to be an organ donor could benefit as many as 10 people.* However, many Canadians die each year because donor organs are not available.

9.2 Organ Donation

For many patients, transplantation offers the only hope for leading a healthy and productive life, or, in some cases, for life at all. By signing an organ donor card and urging your family and friends to do the same, you could ensure the freedom and quality of life that you enjoy is passed on to someone else.

Your donor card confirms your wish to give the gift of any or all tissues and organs after your death. Although it is important to discuss your feelings about transplantation with your family, friends or doctor, the information on the card may help them with decisions at a difficult time.

9.3 Age

Age is never an absolute barrier to some form of organ donation.

If you are over 19, you may direct that any tissue or organ may be used after your death. For persons under 19 years, your parent or guardian should sign the donor card also. Donor cards are available from The Kidney Foundation or the CNIB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on transplantation and organ donation, contact:

NB Organ and Tissue Procurement Program at
(506) 643-6848