

What I Need to Know About Donating My Loved Ones' Organs

Understanding Organ Donation

Is your loved one registered as an organ donor? Or have they talked about their interest in donating their organs? Having a conversation about their choice for donation is extremely important.

It is also important for you to understand that organ donation from your loved one only happens after they have died or suffered an irreversible injury where there is no opportunity for returning to a meaningful life. This resource will help you discuss the choice for organ donation and honor your loved ones' wish, or choice, to be an organ donor.

Discuss The Choice of Donation

- Know your loved ones' wishes and ask if they are a registered organ donor.
 - Support them in registering at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org)
- Be clear about organ donation details and minimize "what if" circumstances.
- Discuss what organ donation means to you and your loved one.
- It is more than one conversation.
 - As we age, or our life circumstances change, it is important to discuss end-of-life choices, and document them through a living will or the ***Five Wishes***.
- Speak to your loved ones often about their wishes and choices for end-of-life services.

Honoring Your Loved Ones' Wishes

- Listen to and ask questions of your loved one's care team.
- Accept when your loved one has suffered irreversible damage.
 - What are their wishes in this circumstance?
 - Are they a registered organ donor?
- Partner with the hospital during this difficult time as they contact the local organ donation organization. They will support your loved one's donation.
- Grieve your loss and celebrate the Gift of Life for another.
- Learn from others who have experienced loss and organ donation.



ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative
The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative

To learn more about types of organ donation,
talk to your care team today.