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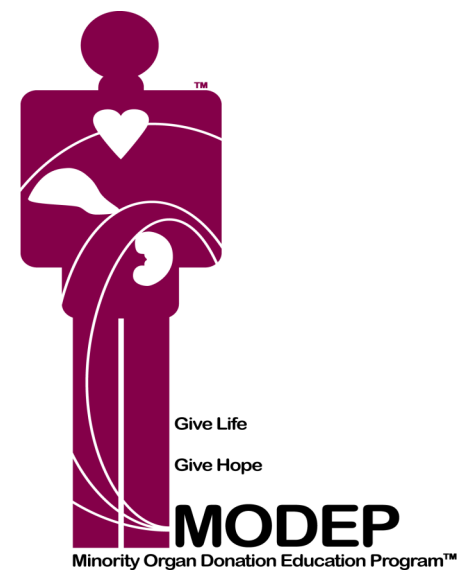
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Minorities & Organ and Tissue Donation



What organs can be transplanted?

Donated kidneys, hearts, lungs, livers, pancreases, and other organs can be transplanted.

What tissues can be transplanted?

Blood vessels, bone, bone marrow, connective tissue, corneas, heart valves, and skin are among some tissues that can be transplanted.

Who decides who receives donated organs?

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network matches donated organs with critically ill patients on the national waiting list. Medical urgency, compatibility of blood chemistries, and body size are considerations in making the match.

Must I have medical tests to register as an organ and tissue donor?

No testing is needed before you sign a donor card or designate "organ donor" on your driver's license or donor card . Organs are tested for infectious diseases, including HIV. Only healthy organs are actually transplanted.

How much will organ donation cost my family?

Nothing. Recipients and their health insurance pay all costs related to donation. Your family pays only for the medical care provided before death and funeral expenses.

Dionbria (Dee Dee) Morrison

Dionbria died from cancer just two weeks before her fourth birthday. She was born with malignant tumors on both of her kidneys. By the time she was three and one half years old, both of her kidneys had been removed due to the tumor growth. Unfortunately the cancer had spread to her lungs.

Dionbria was on dialysis for the last six months of her life. After she passed on her mother didn't hesitate to donate her corneas to the tissue bank. Soon after, she received a letter letting her know that two children had benefited from Dionbria's corneas.

This is the kind of unselfishness that we all need to practice so others may live or have a better quality of life. Minorities must educate themselves concerning organ donation and learn more about how they can help others by becoming organ donors.

Will I receive less aggressive medical treatment because I am willing to be a donor?

No. The physicians do everything possible to save your life. Only after they determine that further efforts would be futile does a transplant team become involved.

What if members of my family oppose donation?

The best way to ensure your wishes are carried out is to tell your family how strongly you feel about being an organ and tissue donor. You also should sign and carry a donor card, and, designate "organ donor" on your driver's license and record your wishes in legal documents.

Will organ donation leave my body disfigured?

Donation does not change the appearance of the body.

Are there religious objections to organ and tissue donation?

All major religions in the U.S. support donation as a gift of life to fellow human beings.

**Source: United Network for Organ Sharing.
www. UNOS. org**