

# Neonatal Donation Fact Sheet for Medical Professionals



## DONATION OPTIONS FOR NEONATES ARE INCREASING

- New research donation options include:
  - Gestational ages as early as third trimester.
  - A variety of birth defects (including anencephaly and other rare disorders).
- Intubation is not always necessary for a baby to be a donor.
- Weight restrictions may not apply in all circumstances.
- In some cases, organs and tissue may be recovered up to 12 hours after death.
- In some cases, stillborn babies may still donate with estimation of time of asystole.
- After organ/tissue recovery, a family may still have the option of receiving their baby back for more bonding time.

## DONATION POSSIBILITIES FOR TRANSPLANT

- Heart valves
- Kidneys
- Liver cells for cell therapy

## DONATION POSSIBILITIES FOR RESEARCH

- Lungs en bloc
- Kidneys en bloc
- Occasionally, other organs/tissues for special projects as well as whole body donation
- Whole heart
- Skeletal muscles
- Liver
- Cornea and retinas
- Pancreas

## OTHER DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Blood and/or skin samples relevant to specific birth defects for various university and medical studies. Learn more by visiting [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).
- The National Birth Defect Registry, internet based participation which can be completed before or after birth, [www.birthdefects.org](http://www.birthdefects.org).

## HOW TO FACILITATE DONATION

- If you have a family that has shown interest in donation or if you have a baby that is a possible donor, contact your organ procurement organization (OPO) **as soon as possible**, preferably before the baby is born. Find your OPO at [www.aopo.org](http://www.aopo.org).
- Develop a relationship with your OPO, learn about their program, and speak to their Hospital Development Coordinator.
- In many cases, a donation discussion will be family-driven. Be sure to provide accurate information so they can make an educated decision. For more information on options to discuss with a potential donor family, visit [www.purposefulgift.com](http://www.purposefulgift.com) or [www.iiam.org](http://www.iiam.org).
- In other cases, the concept of donation may need to be introduced to the family by medical professionals. Be respectful of the time a family may need to process the initial diagnosis and become emotionally open to new ideas.
- Donation, whether for transplant or research, can help a child have a lasting legacy, and add an extra layer of meaning to a life that is brief and bring healing to the family.

For more information please visit: [www.purposefulgift.com](http://www.purposefulgift.com)

*Help a brief life have a lasting legacy.*



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