

## The Power of One

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New England Organ Bank

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A Donor Life Organization  
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## Sources of Public Misconceptions

- Religion
  - Supported by most major world religions
  - Personal conscience or ultimate charity
- Myths
  - Media
  - Public beliefs, urban myths
- Personal
  - Superstitions
  - Assumptions
  - Subliminal beliefs, discomfort, unease
  - Lack of knowledge re. loved one's wishes

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## Religious and Age Myths

- Donating organs and tissue is against my religion.
- I'm much too old to donate. The issue doesn't apply to me.

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## Communication Myths

- I've heard only wealthy or famous people receive transplants. I couldn't get one if I needed one.
- I've been told it costs money to donate.

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## Fears

- If I donate, my body will be mutilated, I won't be able to have a normal funeral and my family will never see my body again to say good-bye.
- Doctors may let me die if they know I am an organ donor so that they can transplant my organs to others.

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## The Impact of a Single Tissue Donor

Age 60  
Emergency Room death

**1**

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**ONE**  
person

173 Bone Grafts  
22 Skin Grafts

**195**  
Through the generosity of 1

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Over **100,000**  
new ACL tears from downhill skiing

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**200,000**

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No Blood Thinner

Valves are Life Saving  
In Pediatric Population

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Every year,  
**175,000**  
Americans are diagnosed with a AAA

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Coronary Artery Disease is the  
leading cause of death in this country


Over **400,000**  
CABGs performed annually

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### Tissue Donor Criteria

- Most deaths are considered for tissue donation
- General age range: Newborn to 90 years
- Criteria is tissue specific



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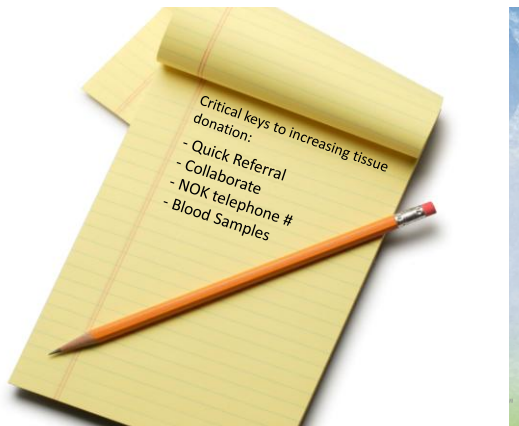
### Automatic Rule-Outs for Tissue Donation

- Septicemia as Cause of Death
- High Risk Behaviors (i.e., IV drug use, prostitution)
- Communicable Diseases (i.e., Syphilis)
- HIV+
- Hepatitis B & C
- Age-over 90




**Referral MUST Still Be Called to NEOB Regardless of Presence of Automatic Rule-Out Criteria**

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### Critical Keys to Increasing Tissue Donation


- Cardio-respiratory death occurs
- Report Death to NEOB within 1 hour of death (found asystolic – in ED found is pronounced) – this is not the same for in-patient death
  - Center for CMS ( Medicare and Medicaid) best practice
  - NEOB has only 24 hours to recover tissue after death.
- if family is planning on leaving the hospital
  - Ask family for phone number **where they can be reached after leaving hospital** (obtain a cell phone number). Do not present donation as an options, the patient has not be properly screened by NEOB and the case could be an ME or the patient is in the registry
  - This allows NEOB to contact and (1) offer donation opportunity and (2) complete medical/social screening.



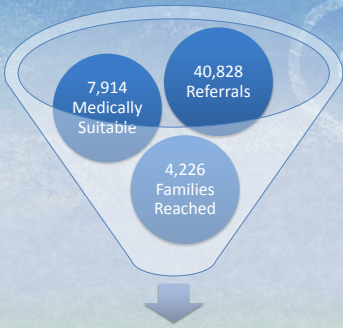
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## Critical Keys: Screening

- Assistance of Hospital Staff with Screening
  - NEOB (an all OPOs in the United States) is HIPAA exempt allowing hospitals to share medical information that provides for necessary medical screening for evaluation of potential donors.
  - NEOB requests additional information when a patient has met initial screening. Thorough medical information (most likely from chart) is needed. (Ex: WBC, IV fluid history, evidence of infection, antibiotic coverage, etc.) is necessary.
  - Accurate physical assessment needed.



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1,756 tissue donors



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## Necessary Components of Hospital Screen

- Cause of Death
- Transfusions/Infusions
- Height and Weight
- Routine and Current Medications
- Past & Present: Medical History
- Trauma, Deformities, & Old Scars
- Evidence of IVDA
- Evidence of STD
- Tattoos & Piercings



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One  
1-800-446-6362  
www.neob.org

**New England Organ Bank**  
Tissue Donor Screening Worksheet

Your help can create many smiles  
Please report all deceased patients to NEOB  
within an hour of expiration  
1-800-446-6362

**\*\* If you check "YES" to ANY questions below, patient is NOT a potential tissue donor and a full screen will not have to be completed with NEOB coordinator. \*\***  
Death still must be reported to NEOB

Yes  No Age 91 or over  
 Yes  No Age < 36 weeks gestation  
 Yes  No HIV+  
 Yes  No Hepatitis B+  
 Yes  No Hepatitis C+  
 Yes  No IV drug use (including IV drug overdose) within past 5 years  
 Yes  No Over age 74 with METASTATIC cancer  
(NOTE: METASTATIC cancer is NOT a rule-out)  
 Yes  No Lymphoma or leukemia

**\*\* If all boxes are marked "NO", Patient is a potential tissue donor. After making the referral, you may be asked for some or all of the information on the following pages \*\***

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New England Organ Bank	Sample Screening Questions for Tissue Donation
<p>Please have chart with you for reference. Below are categories of questions you may be asked about to further assess the patient's ability to donate tissue.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-800-446-6362</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of Admission</li> <li>• Description of Circumstances / Clinical Course leading to death</li> <li>• ED Deaths Only:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of EMS Company</li> <li>• If unwitnessed arrest, time pt. last known alive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MEDICAL HISTORY (including but not limited to...)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Past Medical History</li> <li>o Current status (including evidence of pneumonia or infection, antibiotics given)</li> <li>o Medications</li> <li>o Surgical Procedures performed</li> <li>o CPR performed - details</li> <li>o Name of Primary Care Provider</li> <li>o Height &amp; Weight</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT (including but not limited to...)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Skin Integrity (lesions, rashes, ulcers, breakdown, etc.)</li> <li>o Amputations</li> <li>o Trauma</li> <li>o Tattoos or body piercing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BLOOD / FLUID RECEIVED (including EMS run)</li> <li>• LAB RESULTS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o WBC, differential, temperatures, positive cultures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NEXT-OF-KIN CONTACT INFORMATION  <small>Tissue Donation may include corneas, heart valves, aortic/aortic graft, pericardium, bone, saphenous &amp; femoral vein, and skin. Thank you for taking the time to participate in the screening process. By doing so, you are helping to save and enhance many lives through tissue transplantation.</small> </li> </ul>

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My mother committed suicide. Just the fact that she was able to donate was helpful. Even though she took her own life, she would have been very happy about helping others."

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do something helpful with what was an otherwise difficult situation."

Tessa, Cornea Donor



“ We definitely decided that we wanted someone else to have the gift of sight.”

“Tessa was here on this earth to give love and happiness to others. Now she's doing it even beyond the grave.”

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All Deaths Are Referred to  
New England Organ Bank  
1-800-446-6362

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New England Organ Bank  
Hospital Relations Coordinator

**Berta Grunbeck**  
**617-413-5058**

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To The World You  
May Be One  
Person  
But  
To One Person  
You May Be The  
World

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