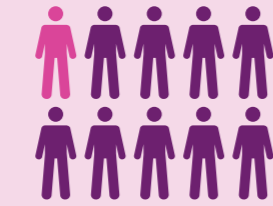


Cornea donation - the facts



One cornea donor could save or improve the sight of **up to 10 people**.



The average wait for a cornea donation is **18 months**.

6,000



There is a national shortage of donated eye tissue for sight restoring operations.



Almost anyone can donate their corneas. Age, poor eyesight or medical conditions, including cancer, are not necessarily a barrier to donation.



Cornea donation doesn't need to delay funeral arrangements.

More information

It takes two minutes to confirm your decision on our website organdonation.nhs.uk or by scanning this QR code:



You can also do this in real time via the **NHS App** in England. You can phone us on **0300 123 23 23**.

You can also write to us. It will take around two working days to process your postal registration after we receive it. Include your full name, date of birth, address and donation decision, and send it to:

**FREEPOST RUGY-REAK-HCTR
NHS Blood and Transplant
NHS Organ Donor Register
500 North Bristol Park
Bristol BS34 7QH**

To nominate a representative, download the form from organdonation.nhs.uk or write to us at the address above and we will post a form to you.

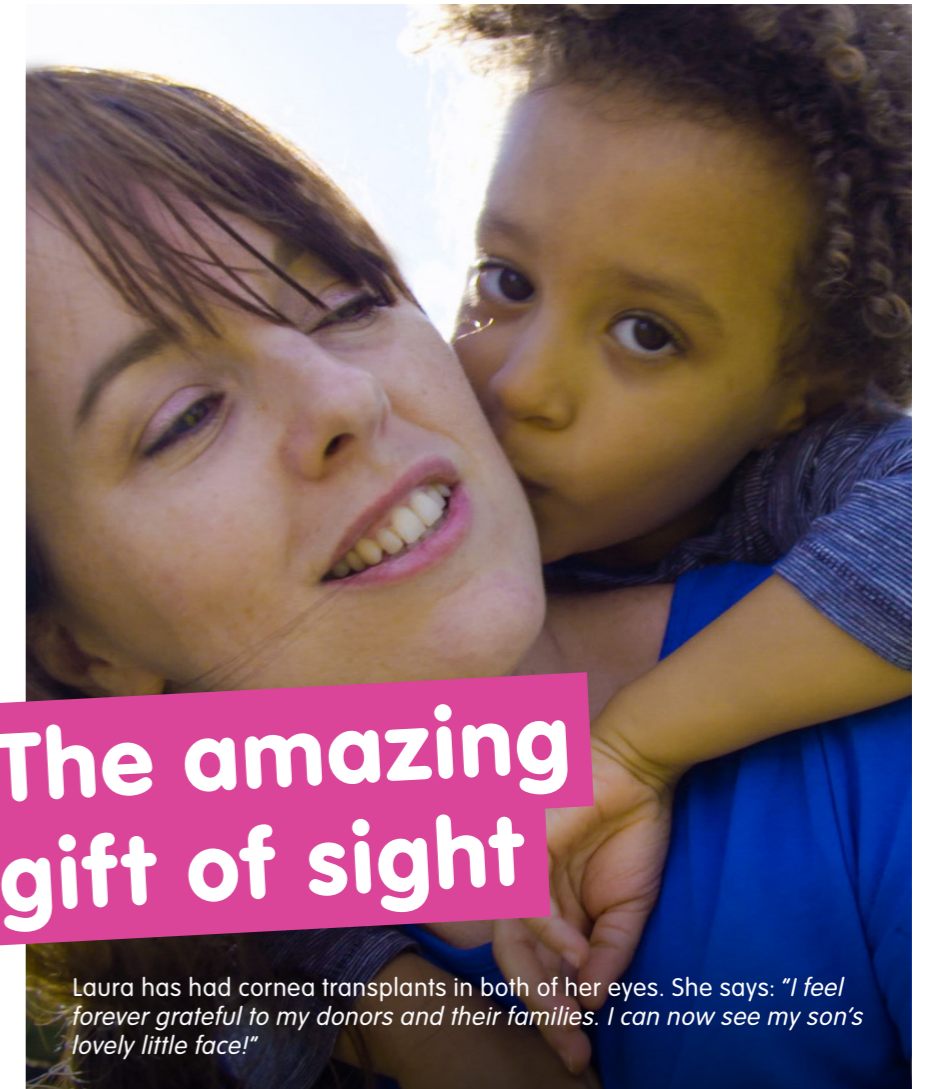
If you are hard of hearing, please use our text relay service:

18001 0300 1232323

Text us on **07860 034 343**



2425 0149 XXXXX XX



The amazing gift of sight

Laura has had cornea transplants in both of her eyes. She says: *"I feel forever grateful to my donors and their families. I can now see my son's lovely little face!"*

How you can help someone see again, when you die.

Visit organdonation.nhs.uk



What is cornea donation?

Cornea donation is when you decide to give the gift of sight to help someone see again. Almost 4,000 lives in the UK are changed every year by people donating their corneas when they die.

The cornea is the clear outer layer of tissue at the front of the eye, it lets light in so you can see.

One donor can change the lives of 10 people by donating their corneas and many more if they also donate other tissues and their organs.

As well as donating corneas, you can choose to donate other tissues, such as heart valves, and organs such as your heart, liver and lungs. You can do this by confirming your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. There are also other options available, you can:

- **Register not to be a donor**
Opt out of all organ and tissue donation.
- **Amend or change your details**
Update your details or donation choice from a previous registration.
- **Nominate someone to make the decision for you**
This can be any person you trust to make the decision. It means this specific person will be asked if your organs can be donated. Examples of nominated representatives include a GP, a faith leader or a friend.

Please see '**More information**' on the back page.

- **Withdraw from the register**
We understand that you may want to come off the register altogether. If you do this, the NHS will not have a decision about organ donation recorded for you. In the UK, this means you may become a donor through 'deemed consent'.

Deemed consent means: it will be considered that you consent to donate your organs, if you have not opted out of donation and are not in an excluded group.

The opt-out system applies to everyone in the UK, except those who are in the excluded groups.

These are:

- those under the age of 18
- people who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action
- visitors to the UK, and those not living here voluntarily
- people who have lived in the UK for less than 12 months before their death

Age, illness or long-term conditions do not prevent you from registering as a cornea donor.



Meet Laura

Laura had a cornea transplant in her right eye when her vision had deteriorated. When the same unexplained problem developed in her left eye, she had a second transplant.

She said: "Had I not had my corneas transplanted, I wouldn't have been able to continue in my job, or met my partner and wouldn't even have my son!"

"I feel forever grateful to my donors and their families. Words are not enough to express my gratitude."

How you can help

If you want to help someone like Laura and give the gift of sight after you die, the best thing to do is confirm your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. It only takes two minutes and you can use our website, the NHS App in England, or call us.

If you are currently within a hospice or hospital setting, please also share your decision and this phone number with the healthcare professional looking after you.

National Referral Centre
0800 432 0559

What is the NHS Organ Donor Register?

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a confidential and secure database. It holds the details of everyone who has added their name and decision about organ and tissue donation after they die. This is the only list of people and their organ donation decisions, and it is voluntary.

If cornea donation is possible when you die, specialist nurses or your healthcare professional will look to see if your donation decision is on the register, or asked what you told them.

Healthcare professionals will try everything to save your life first, before looking at the NHS Organ Donor Register.

It is important that you share your organ donation decision

Across the UK, your family will be involved if you die in circumstances where you could donate, and they will be asked to support your decision. They are more likely to support your decision if they know in advance what it is. There are reasons why the family or next of kin are asked:

- Out of consideration for their loss
- They may have more information about your donation decision than any recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register
- They can tell us about any requests or requirements you have. For example, to ensure that organ donation goes ahead in line with your faith or beliefs
- The information your family provide will help ensure your organs are safe for patients to receive

If you do not have close family, or prefer someone else to be asked on your behalf, you can use the NHS Organ Donor Register to nominate a representative. Please see '**More information**' on the back page.

If you are currently within a hospice or hospital setting, please also share your decision with the healthcare professional looking after you.



Andrew's story

Andrew died of pancreatic cancer.

His daughter Vivien said: *"The doctors told us the one thing they could safely give to a patient was his corneas, from his eyes."*

"We had a letter to say both of Dad's corneas had successfully been used for transplant. It's a miracle to us that two people somewhere have had their sight restored or saved because of Dad."