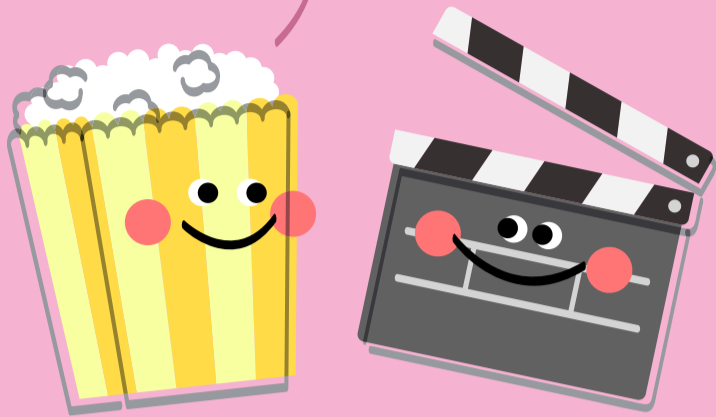


Non posso vivere senza di te!
I can't live without you!



Currently, in Veneto, more than 1,200 people are waiting for a compatible organ.

Find out how to express your willingness to donate organs and tissues at

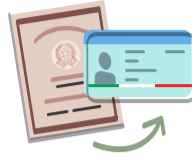
www.crtveneto.it



HOW TO BECOME A DONOR

If, after reading these notes, you have decided to become a donor yourself, know that it is very simple to do so.

To become an organ and tissue donor after death, all you have to do is:



Declare it at the **registry office desks** when you apply for your identity card



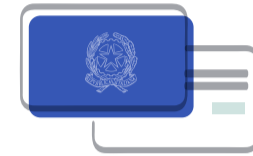
Sign the dedicated forms at the counters of your **AULSS**



Write it on a blank sheet of paper signed and dated (holographic deed) that you will keep among your personal documents



Register for free with **AIDO** (Italian Association for Organ, Tissue and Cell Donation)



Fill in the Ministry of Health's **blue card** or a **Donorcard** from the relevant associations



Fill in the Veneto Region Donorcard, which can also be downloaded from the CRT website www.crtveneto.it



Expressing your will in the **Advance Healthcare Directive (AHD)**.



Scan the QR code



Do you know CRT?

The Regional Transplant Coordination (CRT) is the structure of the Veneto Region that, since 2000, coordinates all the referents of the Regional Transplant System (SRT) and carries out its activities twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. It is composed of doctors and nurses with specific expertise in terms of donation and transplants.

It promotes and coordinates the monitoring of potential donors of organs, tissues and haematopoietic stem cells in the Veneto Health Structures, through the management of the Regional Information System and the constant support to the Hospital Coordination Units, Transplant Centres and Tissue Banks. Moreover, it cooperates with public and private structures in information activities for health education and cultural growth in the population on organ, tissue and cell donation.

Find out more at www.crtveneto.it

Ti aspettavo da sempre



Donation: What do the people of Veneto think?

In recent months, the CRT has launched a statistical survey, in collaboration with a research institute, to find out what the people of Veneto think about donation.

Only 1.4 per cent of those interviewed had never heard of organ donation and only 3.8 per cent did not know that they could express their wishes regarding the donation of their organs and tissues during their lifetime.

The majority of citizens, therefore, are informed about the issue.

Of these, a quarter have already expressed their intention to donate, while 56.7 per cent of respondents said they were in favour but had not yet expressed their willingness.

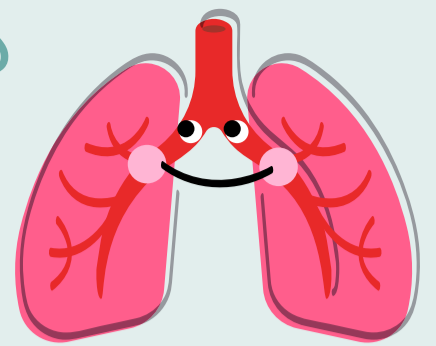
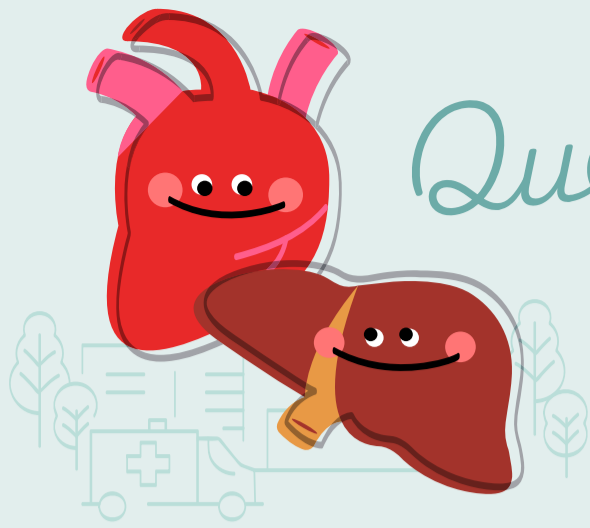
For Veneto people, donation is...

During the survey, interviewees were asked what donation represented to them. Here are some answers:

- A gift of love
- An altruistic act to save lives
- An act of generosity
- A good deed towards others
- A way to save the lives of other human beings when there is nothing left to do for one's own
- An opportunity to save other people
- A way to make death less vain, giving great value to life
- Giving new life to those in need
- An ethical, supportive, anonymous, free act
- A conscious and altruistic choice to help other people live
- A free choice to help those in need
- An act of solidarity
- Love for life, altruism, generosity of spirit without second purposes
- The last chance to help a human being
- An act we should all think about to help those in need tomorrow
- It is life after death



Questions and answers about transplants



It's normal to have doubts about such an important decision. Here you can find the Veneto CRT's answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Can I change my expression of will?

Yes, you can change your choice at any time: it is your right protected by law. The last recorded decision is the one considered valid.

Who can give me a guarantee that my choice will be respected?

The law provides that the expression of will, whether favourable or unfavourable to donation, is filed in a secure and transparent national computerised register, called Transplant Information System (SIT): only authorised transplant coordination doctors can consult the information contained in the SIT, at the time of need.

Remember: the SIT collects and records expressions of will only if they are made to the AULSS, AIDO and Municipalities. Expressions of will made with the Ministry of Health's blue card, with the sector associations' Donorcards and holographic deeds are not visible in SIT: in these cases, it is essential to always carry your declaration of will with you and it is advisable to inform your loved ones of the choice you have made.



What happens if there is no expressed will about donation during life?

In the absence of an expressed will during life, doctors must ask the deceased person's relatives whether they object to the donation.

In this case, the law clearly identifies which family members have the right to decide: the non-separated spouse, or the cohabiting partner, or failing that, the children of full age or, failing that, the parents or legal representative.

How important is the transplant for waiting patients?

Transplantation is their life-saving therapy. With the transplant they can permanently recover and resume a normal life. That is why donating organs is a great act of solidarity and altruism.

Is the diagnosis of death assured?

Absolutely yes. These are the terms of Law no. 578 of 29 December 1993: 'Death is identified with the irreversible termination of all brain functions'. Death is, therefore, a condition with no return, irreversible.

How can doctors be certain of death?

The law requires three doctors to make simultaneous ascertainment of death using neurological criteria. The law establishes certain, clear and unequivocal criteria for ascertaining death. This ascertainment is mandatory and is carried out regardless of organ and tissue donation.

Are coma and death the same thing?

No, death is an irreversible and definitive state, whereas coma is a mutable condition: people in coma are alive and treatment could change their situation.

But I have also heard of living donation: what is it?

In some cases, it is possible to donate while alive. The most frequently donated organs are the kidney and part of the liver.

Tissues that can be donated are the placenta, femoral head bone, saphenous veins and bone marrow (stem cells).

In the case of organ donation, the clinically suitable donor must be assessed by the Third-Party Commission, made up of members chosen by the Veneto CRT. Once the Commission's opinion is positive, the living donation proposal must be submitted to the competent Judge, who must authorise the transplant.

For further information <https://www.crtveneto.it/it/cittadino/donazione-da-vivente/>,38

I am a deeply religious person. Are there religions that oppose donation?

The majority of Western religions, or religious confessions, unequivocally support organ donation and transplantation. The Catholic Church has emphasised on many occasions that organ donation is a supreme act of charity.

Other religions, including the Jewish, Islamic and Jehovah's Witnesses do not pose any obstacles to donation.

When do people become organ and tissue donors?

The law says that one becomes a possible donor only after death has been ascertained. If there is an expression of will made during life, by the deceased person, doctors will honour it, whether or not they are in favour of donation.

Can I donate even if I am ill?

If you intend to donate, you can still express your will to do so. Doctors are fully competent to assess, at the time of donation, whether organs and tissues are suitable and safe for the potential recipient.

I still need clarification, who should I talk to?

You can discuss your doubts by contacting the regional network of donation experts, which you can find in hospitals and the AULSS in your area, the relevant associations, such as AIDO, or the Veneto CRT.

Up to what age can I donate?

There is no age limit for organ donation.

What are the criteria that determine the certainty of death?

There are two ways of ascertaining death: the cardiological criterion and the neurological criterion.

The cardiological criterion: according to the law, the absence of blood circulation, verified by recording an electrocardiogram for no less than twenty consecutive minutes, is the necessary condition for ascertaining death.

In fact, if blood does not reach the encephalon for twenty minutes, because the heart has stopped beating, the encephalon will cease to function irreversibly, leading to death.

The neurological criterion: this is used when the encephalon suffers damage (trauma, haemorrhage...) that results in the complete and irreversible loss of its function, causing the person's death. This condition can be achieved regardless of the functions of any other organ: in fact, the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys can continue to function because they receive oxygenated blood through respiration, maintained by the reanimation machines. The law requires that, in this case, the determination of death must be made by an independent commission of three specialists. This commission must observe the patient for a period of at least six hours and ascertain the presence of precise clinical indications defined by law. This commission has also the task of performing all the instrumental investigations necessary to ascertain the total and irreversible cessation of encephalic activity.

Only at the end of the six hours of observation will the commission ascertain the person's death.

