

HURON PERTH HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2017



This April Check Your Donor Registration Status

Every three days, someone in Ontario dies waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. This situation exists despite the fact that there is the cure, along with the knowledge and the tools to save them. There simply aren't enough organ donors.

One single organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance another 75 more through tissue donation, and while most Ontarians suggest they support organ and tissue donation only 31% have actually registered consent. Research suggests that as many as 15% of Ontarians mistakenly believe they are registered when, in fact, they are not. These 1.8 million 'mistaken' Ontarians represent potentially missed opportunities for donation because their wishes are not recorded.

Some of these Ontarians may have signed a paper donor card years ago and are not aware that donor cards are obsolete. Ontario's registry holds consent information in the health card database, so consent information can be shared with a potential donor's family if necessary.

That's why, this April, we're asking you to *check* your registration status. Checking registration status is easy. Look on the back of your photo health card for the word "donor" or check it online (or on your phone) at beadonor.ca/hpha

HPHA & TGLN

The Stratford General Hospital site of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) is proud to be one of the hospitals in Ontario working with Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) to save lives through organ and tissue donation through Routine Notification. This means TGLN is notified when a patient has died and there may be potential for organ and/or tissue donation.

"Through our participation in Routine Notification we have been able to provide donations that have real impacts for recipients," says Dr. Tyler Rouse, Associate Pathologist and Chair of the HPHA Organ & Tissue Donation Committee. "I encourage everyone to visit www.beadonor.ca/hpha and take a few minutes to sign up! You can also register your consent in person at a ServiceOntario Centre."

According to TGLN, HPHA communities rank above the national average in regards to donor registration but the reality is there is a chronic shortage of organs and tissue available for transplantation across Canada, and the need for organs and tissue in Ontario continues to outweigh their availability.

Ranking	Community	Registered Donors	Health Card Holders	Donor Registration Rate
#23	St. Marys	3,761	7,828	48%
#43	Stratford	12,873	28,528	45%
#89	Southern Bruce & Huron Counties	25,672	64,055	40%
#99	Perth County	7,164	18,554	39%

**Statistics as of December 31, 2016*

“There are currently 14 communities in Ontario with registration rates of 50% and over,” adds Dr. Rouse. “It would be wonderful if we could encourage enough residents in Huron and Perth to register their consent so we could join those ranks!”



PHOTO CUTLINE: Chairs of HPHA’s Organ & Tissue Donation Committee, Kathie Cuerden & Dr. Tyler Rouse pose with a Routine Notification from Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN). Routine Notification means TGLN is notified when a patient has died or prior to death according to their established referral indicators.

The Need for Organ Donors in Ontario

- 31% of Ontarians are registered donors. That’s 3.7 million out of an eligible 12.1 million.
- 1,553 Ontarians are currently waiting for an organ transplant. (As of April 3, 2017)

- Of those Ontarians waiting for an organ transplant, 1,117 are waiting for a kidney.
- 13,300 Ontarians have received a lifesaving organ transplant since 2003.

HPHA's Organ & Tissue Donation Committee

The Organ and Tissue Donation Committee has been in place since 2012 and is responsible for maximizing organ and tissue donation for the purpose of saving and enhancing lives in Ontario. The Committee provides a forum for an interprofessional approach to organ and tissue donation, as a means of ensuring consistency in, and monitoring of, the organ and tissue donation process within the hospital. The committee has educated staff and physicians and continues to work to ensure a strong culture of donation is established and integrated as part of quality end of life care. TGLN will provide the next steps for HPHA to include all sites in organ and tissue donation processes.

Trillium Gift of Life Network

Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario and is responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation for transplantation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.

-30



For more information please contact:

Kathie Cuerden
Program Director ER, CCU, Caridiorespiratory, Medicine & Stroke
Co-Chair Organ & Tissue Donation Committee
519-272-8210 x 2482
kathie.cuerden@hpha.ca

Dr. Tyler Rouse
Associate Pathologist, Chair of the Organ & Tissue Donation Committee
519-272-8210 x 2873
tyler.rouse@hpha.ca



Follow HPHA on Twitter @hpha_news