Medicine is ever advancing; nevertheless, there are still some illnesses that are incurable, one of such being organ failure. When an organ has been so seriously damaged for any treatment to work, transplantation is the only hope left to these patients. More than 2,000 patients in Hong Kong have the urgent need for organ or tissue transplant everyday. Without suitably-matched organs, these patients can only survive on machines or medication and struggle in agony. Some may even lose their battle within a short time.

A donated organ is a love bequeathed to others. To help patients with the urgent need for organ transplant, you may indicate your wish to donate your organs after death. Your family will certainly understand your will of kindness and give you their full support. Only the support of you and your family can give these patients a second chance to live.

Organ donation is the greatest gift to patients and their family. As people pass away, their organs are no longer needed for their life-support functions. Yet, these organs may become the one and only font of life for those who are desperately waiting for organ transplant.

Organ donation is not restricted by gender, age or race. In general, when prospective donors pass away, medical and nursing personnel will verify the will of the deceased and assess the feasibility of organ donation.

Organs and tissues suitable for transplantation include kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, corneas, bones and skin. Organs to be donated are removed surgically in an operating theatre, and incisions made will be properly stitched up. Donor’s bodies are treated with full respect by doctors and nurses, who will observe every detail to leave the donor’s appearance intact as far as possible.

To sign up
(1) Register at the CODR website: www.codr.gov.hk or through the website’s Quick Response (QR) Code above or
(2) Complete and send the following form
   • by post to: CODR System Administrator, Department of Health, 21/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen’s Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong;
   • by fax to: 2127 4926.

To support organ donation
Please register my wish to donate my organ(s) after death (*required fields)
* Family name: 
* First name: 
* HKID no.: 
* HK daytime contact tel. no.: 
* Email address/HK contact address (please provide both, or at least one):
   □ Email address: 
   □ Contact address: 

I wish to donate upon my death: (Please tick)
○ All usable organs
○ The following organ(s) (please select one or more)
□ kidneys
□ heart
□ lungs
□ liver
□ corneas
□ bones
□ skin
If you have special request on our phone verification arrangement, please state:

* Signature:

Attention
(1) If you do not provide the requested information, DH may not be able to complete the registration for you.
(2) Anyone successfully registered with the CODR as a donor will not be issued any organ donation card, nor is it feasible required to carry such a card around.
(3) If you are a donor and wish to update your particulars, please download the registration form online, or download it from the CODR website, then complete and send it back by post or fax. DH will contact you by telephone again to verify your personal particulars, and then either update your record or cancel your previous registration.
The organ donation registration forms collected information in the CODR will be classified as personal and treated with strict confidentiality for the following purposes:

1. arranging organ and/or tissue donation and transplantation
2. providing information to the relevant government bureaux/departments or parties for the purposes stated in paragraph 1 above
3. Collecting data in the CODR will be retained for 100 years from the date of collection.
4. The organ donation registration forms submitted will be destroyed if DH fails to establish contact with you for verification of information, or after your personal data have been inputted into the CODR.
5. You have the right of access to your personal data as provided for in Sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Your right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data provided by you on occasions as mentioned in paragraph 1 above. A fee may be charged by DH for complying with a data access request.
6. Ensuring that relevant personal data provided, including requests for access and correction, are strictly addressed to CODR System Administrator Department of Health 21/F, Wu Chung House 21 Queen’s Road East Wan Chai, Hong Kong Telephone No.: 2961 8441 Fax No.: 2127 4926 E-mail Address: codr@dh.gov.hk

Organ Donation Card
If you choose to register with the Centralised Organ Donation Register, you may still indicate your wish to donate organs after death by writing your particulars on an organ donation card. Be sure to tell your family about your wish and carry the card with you.

Donor Parts and Organs
Suitable organ donors are mostly patients who died in accidents or from acute illnesses. If the wish of these victims to donate organs after death has not been expressed or is not known to their family members beforehand, it will be difficult to execute such wish after their death. Thus, even young people should consider organ donation.

Myth Fact

1. Once I am registered as an organ donor, the medical personnel will not save my life in case I am injured in an accident.
   - This is impossible. Saving life is the responsibility and foremost priority of every healthcare professional.

2. If I choose to register with the Centralised Organ Donation Register, I may still indicate your wish to donate organs after death by writing your particulars on an organ donation card. Be sure to tell your family about your wish and carry the card with you.

3. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - In fact, the removal of an organ from another body may take up to 30 minutes in the case of the corneas and between 16 and 60 in the case of long bones. There is no age limit for skin donation.

4. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - In any case, a transplant team will assess all potential donors individually to decide if their organs are suitable for such purpose.

5. I am worried that all my organs will be taken away regardless of my wish.
   - You may specify in the Centralised Organ Donation Register or on the donation card which organs/tissues you wish to donate or not. The family of the deceased have to sign a consent form to confirm the organs/tissues to be removed for transplant purpose.

6. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - They will consider carrying out any organ donation in a manner that respects the wishes of the donors.

7. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - If the organ recipients or their family find out the donors’ name and address, they may send over their thanks or condolences, adding to the grief of the donors’ family.

8. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - The privacy of donors and recipients will always be respected. Neither the name nor personal particulars of the donors will be disclosed to the relatives. DH will inform the recipients’ progress after the transplant.

9. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
   - If I choose to register with the Centralised Organ Donation Register, you may still indicate your wish to donate organs after death by writing your particulars on an organ donation card. Be sure to tell your family about your wish and carry the card with you.

10. I am worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of the body and thus the funeral rites.
    - Fees and charges arising from organ donation after the death of donors are not to be borne by their family.

For more information, please visit the Organ Donation thematic website or Facebook Fanpage of the Department of Health or call the 24-hour health education hotline: 2833 0111