

***Glossary of Terms***



***in Australia and New Zealand***



# Glossary of Terms

**Active Transplant Waiting List** - This is the list of patients who have been through the assessment process and are fit and ready to receive a transplant. When a donor organ becomes available, the patient is included among those who are matched against the donor. It may sometimes be necessary to remove someone from the transplant list, either temporarily or permanently. This may be done, for example, if someone becomes too ill to receive a transplant. If a patient is suspended from the list, they are not eligible to receive a transplant and are not included in the consideration of any donor organs that become available.

**Actual Donor** - Definitions for this term can vary. The World Health Organisation consider an "Actual deceased organ donor" is a consented eligible donor from whom at least one organ was recovered for the purpose of transplantation. Historically the ANZOD Registry has used a slightly different definition of "a person from whom the retrieval operation is commenced for the purpose of transplantation". This includes donors who may be deemed medically unsuitable at time of surgery or after removal of organs.

**Allocation** - refers to the algorithm and process for determining to whom (from the waiting list of potential recipients) a given donated organ is offered. The algorithms determining allocation are pre-determined by a consensus process, and are available at the TSANZ website ([www.tsanz.com.au](http://www.tsanz.com.au)).

**Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry (ANZOD Registry)**. The Registry collects and reports data for deceased organ donors. Data has been collected since 1989 in Australia and 1993 in New Zealand.

**Body Mass Index (BMI)** - is a calculation used as a measure of obesity (in adults). It is calculated as the quotient of weight and the square of height, in units of  $\text{kg/m}^2$ .

**Bone** - Dense calcified tissue that forms the skeleton and supports the body. Bone can be donated and transplanted.

**Brain Death** - Brain death occurs when the brain function at all level is totally and irreversibly lost. This is determined by specialist doctors using a series of legally defined tests.

**Cardiac (or circulatory) Death** - Occurs when a person's heart stops and cannot be resuscitated. As with brain death, there is no recovery from cardiac death.

**Cardiovascular (CV) Tissue** - Cardiovascular tissue refers to heart valves which are necessary to regulate the flow of blood to and from the heart (see Heart Valves). Cardiovascular tissue can be donated and transplanted.

**Cornea** - The transparent outer covering of the eye's iris and pupil, forming the lens of the eye. Corneas can be donated and transplanted to restore sight for people with damaged corneas.

**Deceased Donor** - An individual from whom at least one solid organ is recovered or the purpose of transplantation after suffering brain death or cardiac death

**Deceased Donor Transplant** - The transplant of an organ, multiple organs or tissue from a deceased donor.

# Glossary of Terms



**Donation** - The act of giving organ(s), tissue(s), or blood to someone else without compensation.

**Donation after Brain Death (DBD)**- Donation of human organ(s) and/or tissue(s) for transplantation that occurs after Brain death has been certified.

**Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD)** - Donation of human organ(s) and/or tissue(s) for transplantation that occurs after the circulatory system has stopped and cardiac death certified. Acronym is DCD.

**Double Adult Kidney Transplant** - describes dual kidney transplantation from a marginal adult deceased donor, where both kidneys are implanted separately with separate anastomoses into the one recipient.

**En bloc Kidney Transplant** - describes the transplant of both kidneys retrieved together with aorta as a single item. These are obtained from paediatric donors typically under 15 kg in weight, into a single recipient and using the donor aorta and vena cava for vascular anastomosis.

**End-Stage Organ Disease** - A disease that leads, ultimately, to permanent, complete failure of an organ to function. Some examples are emphysema (lungs), cardiomyopathy (heart), and polycystic kidney disease (kidneys).

**Graft Survival** - The length of time an organ functions successfully after being transplanted. The endpoints for calculations of grafts survival are either loss of graft function (for example, return to dialysis or retransplantation) or the death of the patient

**Heart** - A muscular organ that pumps blood through the body. The heart can be donated and transplanted.

**Heart Valves (HV)** - Prevent the back flow or leakage of blood as it is being pumped through the chambers inside of the heart. Heart valves can be donated and transplanted.

**Intended Donor** - Definitions for this term can vary. An intended organ donor is a person for whom the donation work was initiated as evidenced by both:

- 1) Formal written consent undertaken, including consent for donation of specific organ+/- tissues, and
- 2) Blood for tissue typing sent with allocation of a donor number;

but donation did not proceed. Historically the ANZOD Registry has used a slightly different definition, "A person from whom authority has been given or volunteered, but organ donation did not proceed. (eg positive virology, cardiac arrest, further investigations discovered cancer, infection etc.)"

**Intestines** - The portion of the digestive tract extending from the stomach to the anus, consisting of the stomach, the upper segment (small intestine) and lower segment (large intestine.) The intestines can be donated and transplanted.

**Intestinal transplants** - A transplant carried out in a patient with intestinal failure who requires a transplant.



**Kidneys** - A pair of organs that maintain proper water and electrolyte balance, regulate acid-base concentration, and filter metabolic waste which is excreted as urine. Kidneys can be donated by deceased and living donors to be transplanted.

**Living Donor** - A person who donates an organ or tissue while alive.

**Liver** - A large reddish-brown organ that secretes bile and is active in the formation of certain blood proteins and in the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The liver, like the kidneys, assists in the removal of waste and toxins from the blood stream. The liver can be donated by deceased donors, and a liver lobe (section) can be provided by a living donor to be transplanted. The donor's liver will grow to full size, and the transplanted lobe will too.

**Lungs** - The organs that enable breathing to take place, providing life-sustaining oxygen to the body and its organs. Air is inhaled into the lungs and oxygen in the air is exchanged for carbon dioxide which is then exhaled. The exchange happens in the blood as it circulates through the sponge-like lung tissue. The lungs can be donated and transplanted. Lung transplantation can refer to single lung, double lung or even a heart-lung transplantation. A lung lobe can also be donated by a live donor.

**Multi-organ transplant** - A transplant in which the patient receives more than one organ.

**Musculoskeletal (MS) Tissue** - Musculoskeletal tissue refers to bone, tendon and ligaments and related products and is utilised for knee and hip replacements, reconstructive orthopaedic surgery following trauma or disease, spinal deformities and can aid in prevention of limb loss following tumour removal.

**National Organ Matching System (NOMS)** - A national database maintained by the Australian Red Cross of all patients waiting for an organ transplant.

**Organ** - A part of the body, made up of various tissues, which performs a particular function. Transplantable organs are: heart, intestines, liver, lungs, kidneys, and pancreas.

**Organ Donation** - To give an organ or a part of an organ to be transplanted into another person. Organ donation can occur with a deceased donor, who can give kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart, intestinal organs, and with a live donor, who can give a kidney or a portion of the liver, lung, or intestine.

**Organ Preservation** - Methods used to maintain the quality of organs between removal from the donor and transplantation into recipient. These methods include preservation solutions, pumps, and cold storage. Preservation times can vary from 2 to 48 hours depending on the type of organ being preserved.

**Pancreas** - Long, irregularly shaped gland that lies behind the stomach. Some glands in the pancreas secrete insulin. Pancreas transplants give patients with diabetes a chance to become independent of insulin injections. In addition to insulin, the pancreas secretes digestive enzymes (into the small intestine) that aid in the digestion of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats. Pancreas can be donated and transplanted.

**Pancreas Islets** - are clusters of *pancreatic* cells that sense blood sugar levels and release insulin to maintain normal levels. Pancreas islets are endocrine tissue located in the pancreas. Pancreas Islets can be donated and transplanted.



**Patient survival rate** - The percentage of patients who are still alive (whether the graft is still functioning or not). This is usually specified for a given time period after transplant. For example, a three-year patient survival rate is the percentage of patients who are still alive three years after their first transplant.

**Recipient** - In the context of organ and tissue transplantation, this is the patient receiving the donated organ or tissue.

**Request** - Where families of suitable donors are asked to give consent to their loved one's organs and tissues to be used for transplant.

**Retrieval** - The surgical procedure of organ recovery. Also referred to as procurement.

**Skin** - This is the largest organ of the body and has several different functions (e.g., protection from infection, fluid balance, cooling). Skin grafts can save the life a burn victim and can provide severely scarred individuals with a better quality of life.

**Split liver** - A split liver transplant occurs when the donor liver is divided into segments and then transplanted. These segments may be transplanted into more than one recipient, or a segment could be transplanted into a child for whom an entire adult liver would be too large.

**Tissue** - A body part consisting of similar cells that perform a special function. Examples of tissues that can be transplanted are bones, corneas, heart valves, ligaments, veins, and tendons.

**Transplantation** - The transfer of cells (eg. stem cells), tissue, or organs from one person to another.

**Transplant Recipient** - A person who has received a tissue or organ transplant.

**Waiting List** - The list of patients registered to receive organ transplants. It is made up of sub-lists of patients waiting for specific organs, and is also (for some organs) broken down by blood group. When a donor organ becomes available, the matching system generates a specific list of potential recipients based on the criteria defined in that organ's allocation policy.

**Ventilation** - The mechanism by which a machine "breathes" for a patient when the patient is not able to breathe properly.



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