

## Organ Donation and Transplantation: Role of Nurse

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### Abstract

Organ donation is when a person allows his/ her organ to be removed, while the donor is alive or after death with the assent of the next of kin. The need for the organ is very high but the donation rates are very low. The nurses are having very important role in organ donation and transplantation. As the legal procedures keep on changing the nurse has to update themselves about organ donation procedures.

**Keywords:** Organ donation; Donor; Transplantation; Assent; Next of kin.

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### Annual Organ donation rates in India [3,4]

Rate of organ donation in India is very less when we look at other countries. In India it is 0.26 per million, 26 per million in USA and 36 per million in Spain. So the health care personnel's have to very important role to play in the field of organ donation.

S. No.	Organs & tissues	Needed	Available
1	Corneas	2,00,000	50,000
2	kidneys	21,000	5,000
3	Hearts	5,000	70
4	liver	2,00,000	750

### Introduction

Organ donation is when a person allows his/ her organ to be removed, legally, either by consent while the donor is alive or after death with the assent of the next of kin. Donation may be for research, or, more commonly healthy transplantable organs and tissues may be donated to be transplanted into another person [1].

Nurses play several roles in the field of organ donation. Nurses may work with patients waiting for transplant or with individuals who have already had organ transplants. Hospital nurses who work on regular medical or surgical floors are also sometimes asked about organ donation by patients or their families [2]. So it is important for the nurses to know the details of organ donation, transplantation. As the legal procedures keep on changing the nurse has to update themselves about organ donation procedures.

### Role of Nurses in the Organ Donation and Transplantation [5,6]

The organ donation rates are very low in India so the nurses need to take extra effort to improve the rate of organ donation. All the individual patients coming to the hospital need to meet the nurses for one or the other purpose. So there are few vital roles can be played by the nurses.

### Hospital Nurses

If a patient or the family of a patient asks a nurse about the possibility of an organ donation or transplant, the nurse has to notify this to the transplant team in the hospital.

*ICU Nurses*

ICU Nurses take care of the live donors and recipients after organ donation, the deceased person till the time of organ donation after the brain death. If the patients and their relatives if they have any doubts it is to be clarified by the ICU nurse or the transplant team.

*Transplant Nurses*

When a patient is awaiting an organ transplant, he's under intensive medical care. In many transplant centers, each patient has a nurse assigned to him who sees him regularly, follows up on lab work and acts as a liaison between the patient and the transplant physicians. She also need to educate her patients about the transplant process and provide emotional support.

*Procurement Nurses*

Procurement nurses initiate contact with the family of the patient whose organs might be suitable for transplant — then coordinate the timing of the organ harvest from the donor with the transplant into the recipient. The procurement nurse also might assist with the surgical removal of organs from the donor and ensure that the organs are properly transported to maintain viability when they reach the recipients.

*Surgical Nurses*

The transplant team consists of doctors and nurses specially trained in transplant, which involves two patients: the donor and the recipient. Separate surgical teams might handle the removal of the organs from the donor and the placement into the recipient, or the same team might perform both surgeries.

*Nurse Educators*

Arrange CNE on organ donation and make the nurses to know about the legal aspects involved in the organ donation process.

In a study done at NIMHANS on 2015 about 81% of the nurses were 'willing to sign the card' for organ donation; however, only 3.8% of them actually 'signed the organ donation card'.

*Nurse Researchers*

The researchers can do research in the field of organ donation such as the quality of life of the live

donors, recipients and their families, recipients, case studies on organ recipients and organ donors

*Nurse Administrators*

Nurse administrators must take the initiative to develop guidelines clarifying the role of nurses in the organ donation and transplantation process to promote organ donation and improve rates.

*How to Improve Organ Donation Rates [7]**Create Awareness to the Public*

The public need to be aware of organ donation and brain death. So that when there is a brain death the family members may know that the organs can be donated after brain death. Because at the time of brain death the family members may not be willing to learn about brain death and organ donation. The main reasons of disagreement were lacking of consent among relatives and religious beliefs. In a study done by Vaishaly K. Bharambe, et al., at Pune 78% of respondents were aware of organ and body donation, very few were aware of the necessary health status of the donor and 39% had no awareness regarding concept of brain-death [8].

*Mass Media*

Mass media such as internet, television, newspapers can be used to create awareness about organ donation. Especially whatsapp and facebook create great impact among the public and the information reaches the public very fast.

*Can be Added as an Option in the Identity Card*

There can be an option in the driving license, or identity card for the willingness to donate organs as it is carried by most of the working community.

*Make them know*

In all the hospital deaths the relatives to be told to think about organ donation

*Add in the Student Curriculum*

All the school and college students need to be taught about organ donation. Only the medical professions are learning about organ donation. But as it is the need of the hour all the school and college syllabus should cover the organ donation topic.

## Conclusion

Nurses can improve the awareness of the public regarding organ donation educating the public, in all the hospital deaths talk to the relatives about the option of donating the organs, engage in the public talks, make the young nurse researches to do more researches on organ donation.

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