



# Bone donation

Enhancing  
lives,  
changing  
lives.

# Did you know, you can help improve patients' lives by donating your bone?

Around the time of your hip surgery, you may be called by an SNBTS (Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service) Tissue Donation Nurse to discuss donating your discarded bone. They will give you more information about bone donation and the types of patients you could be helping.

They will also ask you a number of questions to find out if you're eligible to donate. If you are, they'll ask for your consent to donate your discarded bone.



## What is bone donation?

During hip surgery operations, the surgeon will routinely remove some bone. This section of bone would normally be discarded, but it can be used for the benefit of other patients. **Bone donation is entirely voluntary - the decision to donate or not won't affect your operation in any way.**

Donated bone may be used in a variety of orthopaedic operations, such as correcting spinal deformities in children, and certain hip replacement operations. It can also be used for grafting fractures that have failed to heal, or to encourage the growth of new bone by filling the gap when diseased bone is removed.

## Who can be a bone donor?

Not everyone is suitable to become a bone donor. For example, you should not donate bone if you have had certain illnesses, such as cancer. We also need to know if you may have infections such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis or Human T-lymphotropic Virus (HTLV). Information on your health, travel and lifestyle history will help us work out whether you can become a bone donor.

Specially trained nurses review the medical notes of patients attending hospital for hip surgery to identify those who may be suitable.

If they think you might be suitable, you may be approached to discuss the possibility of bone donation.

**Read our online FAQ: Live bone donation at** [www.scotblood.co.uk/giving-blood/publications/faq-live-bone-donation](http://www.scotblood.co.uk/giving-blood/publications/faq-live-bone-donation)

## Bone graft safety – a shared responsibility

In order to minimise the risk of your bone transmitting any infection or disease to the patient who receives it, we will ask you a series of health, travel and lifestyle questions. It is important to answer these questions openly and honestly.

In addition, a blood sample from every donor is tested to ensure the bone graft is safe for patient use.

### You should not donate bone if:

- you think you might need a test for HTLV/HIV/AIDS/hepatitis
- you are HIV or HTLV positive
- you are a carrier of hepatitis
- you have ever had syphilis (even if treated)
- in the last 12 months you have: injected, or been injected with illegal or non-prescribed substances, such as performance enhancing drugs (including body-building drugs), chemsex\* drugs or injectable tanning agents. You may be able to donate if a doctor has prescribed the drugs or the drugs have given under the advice of a pharmacist. Please ask your hospital or Tissue Donation Nurse.
- in the last 3 months you have been given any form of payment such as money and/or drugs for sex
- in the last 3 months you have been taking PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)/Truvada® or PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) to prevent HIV infection
- in the last 3 months you have taken part in chemsex\*

\*Chemsex is a specific type of sexual activity where people take certain stimulant drugs to let them have sex for longer and with more people. Drugs associated with chemsex include methamphetamine, mephedrone and GHB.

**You should not donate bone, if in the last three months you have had sex with:**

- anyone who is HIV or HTLV positive
- anyone who has hepatitis
- anyone who has or is being treated for a sexually transmitted disease
- anyone who has been given any form of payment for sex
- anyone who has ever injected or been injected with non-prescribed substances including performance enhancing substances, chemsex or injectable tanning agents

**You will also be asked whether over the last three months you have:**

- had sex with someone new, or resumed a previous or infrequent sexual relationship
- had sex with more than one person

**If you answer 'yes' to either (or both) questions, you will then be asked if you had anal sex with any of your sexual partners in the previous three months:**

- if you have, you will not be able to donate
- if you have not had anal sex, you will be able to donate (subject to all other eligibility criteria)

If you are unsure about any of these points or have donated bone, but later have doubts about whether your donation should be used, please contact the Tissue Donation Nurse as soon as possible by phoning the number on the back of this leaflet.



## What next?

When you come into the pre-admission clinic or the hospital for your operation, a hospital nurse or an SNBTS Tissue Donation Nurse may discuss the possibility of bone donation with you, or you may be given this leaflet as part of your pre admission documentation from the hospital.

Alternatively, you may be contacted by telephone to discuss the possibility of bone donation by one of our Tissue Donation Nurses. The process of bone donation will be explained. You will be asked to answer some questions and give written consent.

### **By consenting to bone donation, you will be agreeing that:**

- you have understood the questions and statements on the consent form
- the information you have provided is true and accurate
- to the best of your knowledge, you are not at risk of infection, or of transmitting, HIV, hepatitis,

or other infections that can be passed from one person to another

### **You will also require to give consent for:**

- your blood to be tested for HIV, hepatitis, HTLV, syphilis and other infections
- your blood sample to be stored for possible future testing for infections
- our staff to review your medical notes and, if required, contact your GP or hospital medical team for further health information
- SNBTS to hold information about your health screening in accordance with the Data Protection Act
- research, audit, education, training, quality assurance, performance assessment or disposal in a lawful manner if the bone is found to be unsuitable for patient treatment

**In the event of a positive blood test result, you will be informed and offered appropriate advice. This may be via your hospital medical team or GP.**

## Data protection

SNBTS keeps a record of donor information on a secure database. This database is used to record all donation details. All the information is treated with the strictest confidence.

This information may also be used for research and audit to assess and improve the quality of our service. All information and data that is processed by SNBTS is in accordance with data protection law.

We keep records for at least 30 years. More information on how your personal information is used and your rights under data protection law are available in our Data Protection Notice: <https://www.scotblood.co.uk/contact-us/data-protection-notice>



## What happens to the bone donation?

Your bone donation will be kept in frozen storage until all of the necessary test results have been checked, before being used for patient treatment.

Sometimes your bone may not be suitable for patient treatment, in which case it will be discarded in a lawful manner. Alternatively, with your agreement, it could be used for research (audit, education, training, quality assurance and performance assessment) and you will be asked to give consent at the time of interview.

## What happens if I change my mind?

If you decide you would rather not donate, **you can change your mind at any time**, as long as the bone has not already been used. To discuss this, please contact your local Tissue Donation Nurse at the appropriate number on the back of this leaflet.

No questions will be asked and this will not affect your treatment in any way.



## Contact us

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This publication can be made available in large print, braille (English only), audio tape and different languages. Please contact **[nss.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.communications@nhs.scot)** for further information.

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