

# Irish Organ Donation Handbook App

Organ transplantation is a recognised worldwide treatment for end organ damage.

Transplantation is life-saving for end-stage heart, lung and liver diseases. It is life-enhancing for end-stage pancreatic and renal disease. The latter group of diseases can be treated with insulin and renal replacement therapy respectively for some years in the absence of a transplant. In Ireland, 55% of patients with end-stage renal failure receive a transplant as their definitive treatment.



The international need for organs to transplant far exceeds the number of organs available to donate. Each day, people die while waiting for a transplant. In Ireland, this is approximately 20 people annually. There has been a decline in both the number of possible donors and who progress to become actual donors. The reasons include a reduction in road traffic accidents (RTAs) due to improved road infrastructure, improved care of patients with catastrophic brain injury, earlier decompressive craniectomy and perhaps, a reduction in donor identification.

The Irish Organ Donation Handbook application was developed as a need was clearly identified in 2017. A survey was distributed among doctors and nurses in the Saolta University Healthcare Group asking about attitudes and knowledge in relation to Organ Donation. The results showed huge support for organ donation but highlighted a perceived lack of education and knowledge (1).



## Goals:

- To standardise all information from possible donor identification, management of a potential donor, diagnosis of death, family approach, donor referral, through to the perioperative procurement process and the post donation process. This allows HCPs to discuss these clinical scenarios about donors using the same terminology.
- To reduce national variation of all aspects of patient/potential donor management including family discussions. It will ensure that all HCPs working in the area of organ donation in Ireland are familiar with and refer only to The Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) guidelines (2) (3). This is to promote use of our ICSI guidelines and to discourage use of those from other countries as these will differ from national guidelines.
- To ensure all families of potential donors are offered the opportunity to consider donation.
- To provide automatically updated evidence-based practice at a point of care source.
- To raise awareness and increase education among HCPs who work within the field of organ donation.

The intended audience is Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) involved in the management of a possible donor or in the perioperative retrieval process. This is infrequently encountered by many HCPs in most Irish hospitals apart from the neurosurgical centres.

The groups and numbers of HCPs accessing the app will be recorded to allow us to identify deficits in knowledge and to tailor educational programmes going forward. We can analyse the groups and numbers of HCPs who access the app. This will allow us to identify deficits in knowledge and to tailor educational programmes going forward.

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The application can be downloaded from the App Store/Google Play store:



## References

- 1 <http://imj.ie/attitudes-and-knowledge-of-healthcare-professionals-regarding-organ-donation-a-survey-of-the-saolta-university-health-care-group/>
- 2 [www.intensivecare.ie](http://www.intensivecare.ie)
- 3 <http://www.intensivecare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Diagnosis-of-Brain-Death-in-adults-Guidelines2.pdf>
- 4 <https://jficmi.anaesthesia.ie/standards-documents/>