

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *about skin donation*

As you consider registering as a tissue donor, including skin donation, or authorizing skin donation for a recently lost loved one, you may have questions. The information below may help address these questions and help you make an informed decision.

### What is tissue donation?

Tissue donation is when a deceased person's tissue is donated to patients with important medical needs. Skin is just one type of tissue that may be donated.

### Do medical professionals let donor status influence how they treat someone?

In a medical emergency, life-saving measures will always be taken, regardless of donor status.

### Does having multiple health concerns disqualify you from donating?

No. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of death.

### How many people can be helped by one donor?

Donated organs and tissues such as skin from one donor could improve the quality of life of up to 75 people whose lives have been dramatically changed by illness or trauma.

# 75 recipients

### What parts of the body are considered "tissue"?

Tissue that may be suitable for donation from a deceased person includes: skin, eyes/corneas, heart valves, bone, tendons, cartilage, and veins

### How is donated tissue used?

Donated tissue, including skin, is used to help people with severely damaged or lost tissue due to cancers, injury, burns, birth defects, or disease.

### Donated tissue could save a life...

- Skin grafts for burn victims
- Heart valves for cardiac defects
- Veins for circulatory disorders

### ...or restore quality of life

- Corneas for the gift of sight
- Ligaments and tendons for mobility
- Bone to prevent amputation
- Skin to aid in head and neck reconstruction and other surgeries

### How do I become a tissue donor?

You may already know that you can register to become an organ donor when you apply for or renew your driver's license. You also can register as a tissue donor through your local motor vehicle department. Or, you can register on your state's online donor registry through [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov). Either way, be sure to share your decision with your loved ones to ensure your wishes are carried out.

### Is there an age limit for registering as a skin donor?

Advanced age does not automatically disqualify someone from becoming a tissue donor.

### Would skin donation impact or delay funeral plans?

Rest assured that traditional funeral arrangements can be made following donation, and open casket is still an option.

### Are there additional costs associated with donating tissue?

There are no additional costs to the donor's family or estate to donate skin or any other tissue.

### What happens to skin after it is donated?

After skin is recovered from a donor, it is sent to an accredited processing organization where it is carefully prepared in a way that makes it suitable for medical purposes. From there, it is used in hospitals and other medical facilities to help people with severely damaged or lost tissue due to cancers, injury, burns, birth defects, or disease. You can be assured that the donor is treated with the utmost respect throughout the entire process.

skin  
*donation*

Register now to become a tissue and organ donor, and be sure to share your wishes with your loved ones.

abbvie