



ODNZ Eye Tissue Donation Tips & Tricks

Raising eye tissue donation (statements to help open the conversation):

- There is something important I would like to talk to you about. '**Name**' is in a unique position to become a tissue donor.
- '**Family member names**', I have some important information that I would like to share with you. There is a possibility that '**Name**' could be a tissue
- For patients in our unit who are receiving end of life care, we offer information about the possibility of tissue donation

Conversation tips:

- **I don't think '*patient*' can be an eye donor, s/he wore glasses and had cataracts**
"Patients who wore glasses or had cataracts can still be eye tissue donors. It is the cornea (the clear outer layer at the front of the eyeball) which is used to restore vision, and this isn't impacted by cataracts. The sclera (white part of the eye) is used for reconstructive surgeries."
- **We are having an open casket. Won't eye donation change his/her appearance?**
"There will be no change to '*patient*'s' appearance. The skilled technicians from the Eye Bank will place a shield under the eyelid and his/her eyes will remain closed. His/her appearance will not be altered."
- **How long does eye tissue donation take?**
"The process of eye tissue donation takes approximately 30 minutes."
- **When and where is the donation done?**
"Eye tissue donation can be facilitated in most facilities, a hospital mortuary, funeral home, or hospice."

Blood pack:

Please call ODNZ prior to taking bloods.

Ideally the tissue donor blood pack will be taken pre-mortem. If post-mortem bloods are required, these samples must be obtained within 24 hours of death.

Physical Assessment:

Refer to the *ODNZ Physical Assessment Guide*.

Top tip: If not appropriate to complete physical assessment while family at the bedside, the physical assessment can be completed post-mortem while attending to patient cares. Please send this to ODNZ at the earliest convenience upon completion.

Any queries, phone ODNZ 09 360 0935