

# Information for Potential Bone Donors

## Patient Information

Bone Bank



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:  
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: LS  
Leaflet Ref: BB 001  
Version: 7  
Leaflet title: Information for potential bone donors  
Date Produced: December 2023  
Expiry Date: December 2025

## Introduction

### Did you know that you could be a bone donor?

Did you know that when you have a hip replacement operation your old hip could be used to help another patient?

### How can my bone be used to help others?

During the operation the top of your thigh bone (the head of the femur or femoral head) is taken away and replaced with an artificial one.

Some of the bone, which has to be taken away is good bone. This bone can be used to help others instead of just disposing of it.

If a patient has suffered bone loss due to disease, injury or previous surgery, this can be replaced using small pieces of bone from a donor. Such operations enable people to be mobile again or may restore the use of a limb.

So when your hip is replaced, you can help someone else by donating your worn-out hip to our Bone Bank. It will be stored in a freezer in the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) Bone Bank at Wrightington Hospital until it is needed.

### Can everyone give their bone?

Most people can, there is no age limit. Some people may not be accepted as bone donors, in a similar way that not everyone can be a blood donor. This is usually because they have had certain medical conditions:

- Cancer
- Blood transfusions
- Parkinson's disease
- Alzheimer's
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Syphilis
- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) / Hepatitis B or C
- Paget's disease
- Avascular Necrosis

## Testing bone donors

Regulations require that routine screening tests are done on blood donors every time they give blood, so we also do routine screening tests when bone is donated. If you wish to donate, a small blood sample will be taken during your operation to screen for various infections.

We will test your blood for:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Syphilis
- HIV
- HTLV (human T-cell lymphotropic virus)

## What do I have to do to be a bone donor?

- Giving your bone will not affect your care in any way or make any difference to the operation or to your recovery.
- Before your operation a member of staff will speak to you about your medical history and suitability as a bone donor.
- The discussion will take approximately 20 minutes.
- You also have the option to log into myrecovery to access the survey and complete your pre-screening questions. If you choose to do so, and are suitable for bone donation, we will ask you to consent on the day of your pre-operative assessment and the discussion may take less time.
- Just like blood donors, we need to determine if bone donors are in a high risk group for HIV. Some of the information we require may seem very personal, but this is necessary to comply with Department of Health regulations.

## Research and Training

If donated bone is unsuitable for transplant, it may be used for research or training purposes in other hospitals as well as Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust.

## How easy is it to say “no”?

It is very easy to say “No”. There is no obligation or pressure on you to donate your bone. You are free to say “No” for whatever reason and no further questions will be asked.

## Accessing myrecovery

If you have not already accessed myrecovery, you can scan the QR code below which will provide you details on how to register or go to [nhs.auth.msk.ai](https://nhs.auth.msk.ai) in your browser and complete the online registration form or download the app in the App Store or Google Play.



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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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