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Dr. ANIL KUMAR
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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services

F.No.C-51/750/TB/NOTTO/25 /312

Dated: 17.10.2025

Subject: Promotion of Tissue and Bone Donation - Regarding

Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, there exists a significant gap between the number of patients requiring human organ and tissue transplants and the availability of donors in our country. While largely, there are systems in place for organ procurement and distribution, however, it is noted that many times tissues are not being harvested from deceased donors. There is a substantial national requirement for tissues. For instance, India requires nearly one lakh corneas annually, yet only about one-third of this demand is being met. Bone donation, in particular, plays a vital role in the treatment of patients with trauma, non union of bone fractures, congenital abnormalities, and other bone-related disorders.

Tissues such as corneas, skin, bones & heart valves can be donated from cases of brain-stem-death and cardiovascular deaths happening within hospitals / natural death cases. Tissues can be harvested up to six to ten hours after death. Therefore, it is essential that hospitals should constitute organ and tissue donation team by involving brain stem death committee members and transplant coordinator/counselor and establish a systems for mandatory notification of cases of deaths happening in the hospitals, to the aforesaid team. All deaths happening in any area of hospital like ICU, ward, emergency be notified and efforts be made for timely counseling of family members of potential donors for encouraging for organ and tissue donation. Even if the family does not agree for organ donation, the option for tissue donation must be given to the family. Hospitals should also make proper arrangements for tissue retrieval, processing and storage through linkages with registered tissue banks. Training of healthcare staff in tissue retrieval, transplantation, and banking is also crucial for strengthening the system.

Besides organ donation, by promoting tissue and bone donation also, we can significantly transform lives and improve the quality of life for many patients.

I would, therefore, request your kind support in promoting tissue and bone donation also.in addition to organ donation in your State/UT and in establishing robust systems for counseling, retrieval of tissues and their linkage with tissue banks. You are also requested to disseminate this information to all hospitals involved in organ and tissue donation, transplantation and tissue banking activities.

An Action Taken report may please be provided to this organization in due course.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Anil Kumar)

To,
Director /In-Charge, All ROTTOs/SOTTOs

Copy for information to:
State Appropriate Authority, All States/UTs



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