

Media Release

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Fifty physicians to champion organ and tissue donation in Ontario hospitals

TORONTO – Hospital Donation Physicians are now working to support organ and tissue donation within Ontario hospitals, following closely the example set by successful international programs. Physician engagement is credited with improving donation rates by encouraging a culture of donation within hospitals. These specially trained physicians complement existing supports available through Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN).

“The opportunity for organ donation is rare, as less than three per cent of hospital deaths allow for organ donation,” explains Ronnie Gavsie, President and CEO of TGLN. “Hospital Donation Physicians are available to staff to provide educational support and share expertise, and to ensure that no family misses the opportunity to create a lifesaving legacy for a loved one by choosing donation.”

With over 1,600 Ontarians waiting for a lifesaving transplant, TGLN is committed to supporting hospitals as they incorporate donation into quality end-of-life care.

This is the second phase of Ontario’s plan to create an integrated network of donation physicians, both within and external to the hospital. In December 2014, TGLN appointed five Regional Medical Leads responsible for supporting hospital donation performance within a specific region of Ontario.

Dr. Sonny Dhanani, TGLN’s Chief Medical Officer of Donation says: “Since we implemented the donation physician model in Ontario, we’ve seen an increase in the number of potential donors referred to TGLN. This means there are fewer missed opportunities for donation, and more families are being given the chance to make a lifesaving choice. This is improving end-of-life care for Ontarians.”

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care says: “Organ and tissue donation is incredibly important. One donor can save up to eight lives and help 75 more by donating tissue. I thank the physicians who are taking on the critical task of working with their colleagues and patient families to help increase the number of donations. This new initiative has the potential to save countless lives.”

See below for the list of Ontario hospitals with Hospital Donation Physicians.

Quick facts

- Currently over 3.34 million individuals in Ontario are registered organ and tissue donors. Register at www.BeADonor.ca, or in person at any ServiceOntario centre.

- Donation performance data, including routine notification and conversion rates, by hospital, is available at www.giftoflife.on.ca/en/publicreporting.htm
- Registration data is available for communities across the province at <https://beadonor.ca/scoreboard>

Ontario hospitals with Hospital Donation Physicians:

Bluewater Health	Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital
Brockville General Hospital	Pembroke Regional Hospital
Cambridge Memorial Hospital	Peterborough Regional Health Centre
Chatham-Kent Health Alliance	Queensway Carleton Hospital
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario	Quinte Healthcare Corporation
Cornwall Community Hospital	Rouge Valley Health System
Georgian Bay General Hospital	Royal Victoria Hospital
Grand River Hospital	Sault Area Hospital
Guelph General Hospital	The Scarborough Hospital
Halton Healthcare	Sick Kids
Hamilton Health Sciences	Southlake Regional Health Centre
Health Sciences North	St. Joseph's Health Centre
Hôpital Montfort	St. Michael's Hospital
Humber River Hospital	St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance	St. Mary's General Hospital
Kingston General Hospital	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Lakeridge Health	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
London Health Sciences Centre	The Ottawa Hospital
Mackenzie Health	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
Markham Stouffville Hospital	Toronto East General Hospital
Mount Sinai Hospital	Trillium Health Partners
Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare	University Health Network
Niagara Health System	University of Ottawa Heart Institute
North Bay Regional Health Centre	William Osler Health System
North York General Hospital	Windsor Regional Hospital

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Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation for transplantation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.