

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Issue Date:** 16 June 2022

**STATUS: ACTION**

**CATEGORY: POLICY**

**Title: Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales: 2022-2026**

**Date of Expiry / Review:** 31 December 2026

**For Action By:** Chief Executives of Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales, Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee, NHS Blood and Transplant

**Action required by:** Ongoing

**Sender:** Prof Chris Jones, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Health & Social Services

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**Enclosure(s):** (None)

## **Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales: 2022-2026**

‘Ensure the whole population of Wales can donate tissue or organs and receive a transplant whenever this is clinically possible’

### **Summary**

The purpose of this Welsh Health Circular is to highlight the publication of the Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales: 2022-2026

### **Action**

Health boards and NHS trusts, where appropriate, are expected to work with the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC), Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN), NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), Welsh Transplantation Advisory Group (WTAG), third sector and other relevant organisations towards implementing the priorities and actions in the Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales.

Health boards should take account of the priorities for donation and transplantation when planning their services and developing their Integrated Medium-Term Plans (IMTPs).

## **Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales: 2022-2026**

The Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales: 2022-2026 is available at:

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/odt-structures-and-standards/key-strategies/donation-and-transplantation-plan-for-wales/>

The Donation and Transplantation Plan for Wales aims to build on the improvements in donation and transplantation started following the UK Organ Donation Taskforce report in 2008 and continued through the recommendations set out in UK Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020 and the accompanying Wales action plan. It covers both living and deceased donation of both tissue and organs for adults and children.

While there have been significant increases in living and deceased donation over the past decade, progress in some areas has been slower than we would have hoped. The plan has been developed with the members of the Welsh Transplantation Advisory Group (WTAG) with input from additional stakeholders.

This plan complements UK Organ Donation and Transplantation 2030: Meeting the Need plan<sup>1</sup> and supports its objectives. Given how much may change over that decade in this area, the plan has focused on recommendations which it is anticipated can be delivered or where we can make significant progress in the coming four years. The plan seeks to avoid duplicating actions already covered in the UK strategy, particularly where

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/odt-structures-and-standards/key-strategies/meeting-the-need-2030/>

actions are best taken forward on a UK wide basis, and therefore the two documents should be considered together.

The plan recognises the context in which it was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this has had on NHS services, the ongoing pressures within the NHS and the necessary changes which have taken place. There is an ongoing need to provide services differently both in response to COVID and also to tackle the harms caused by COVID such as the reduction in the number of organ donors and the increase in the transplant waiting list.

The plan sets out a number of specific actions to be taken forward based around six priority areas, listed below:

- Priority 1 - Increasing deceased organ donation
- Priority 2 - Increasing tissue and eye donation
- Priority 3 - Increasing living donation and transplantation
- Priority 4 - Increasing access to transplantation
- Priority 5 - Improving transplant outcomes
- Priority 6 - Ensuring a workforce sustainable, supported and diverse

It will be reviewed and updated, where necessary, on an annual basis.