



Canadian Blood Services  
Société canadienne du sang

# Glossary of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Terminology

Definitions .....	2
Acronyms .....	6

# Definitions

## **Accreditation**

The process by which an organization recognizes a program or an institution as meeting predetermined standards.

## **Adverse event**

An undesirable response in the recipient to transplanted cells, tissues or organs, including the transmission of a disease or disease agent.

## **Allograft**

Any cells, tissues, or organs from one human being intended for transplantation into another human being.

## **Audit**

A documented review of personnel functions, facilities, procedures, records, equipment, materials, and contract service facilities or suppliers to evaluate adherence to written standard operating procedures, standards, and applicable laws and regulations.

## **Autograft / Autologous**

Any cells, tissues, or organs transplanted into the same human being from whom they were recovered.

## **Brain death**

The irreversible loss of capacity for consciousness combined with the irreversible loss of all brainstem functions including the capacity to breathe.

## **Cold ischemia time**

The amount of time an organ spends being preserved in a cold perfusion solution after organ procurement surgery.

## **Collaborative**

A time-limited effort of multiple organizations, which come together to learn about and to create improved processes in a specific topic area. The expectation is that the teams share expertise and data with each other (everyone learns, everyone teaches).

## **Donation after Cardiocirculatory Death (DCD)**

The procurement of organs for transplantation from individuals who are declared dead according to circulatory-respiratory criteria, as opposed to brain death criteria (also known as non-heart-beating donation or NHBD).

## **Deceased donor**

An individual from whom at least one solid organ is recovered for the purpose of transplantation after suffering brain death or cardiac death.

## **Donor**

A person (either living or deceased) who provides cells, tissues, or organs for transplantation.

**Donor screening**

The process for determining the suitability of a specific individual for cell, tissue, or organ donation based on age; medical, social, and sexual history; physical examination; and autopsy finding (if performed).

**Donor suitability assessment**

The process for determining the suitability of a specific individual for cell, tissue, or organ donation based on donor screening and donor testing.

**Donor testing**

The laboratory tests and measurements done on a donor or donor specimen to determine:

- If the donor has or ever had a transmissible disease or is or ever was infected with a transmissible disease agent
- Donor compatibility
- The degree of functionality of the cell, tissue or organ that is to be retrieved

**Expanded or Extended Criteria Donor (ECD)**

A donor who does not meet a program's definition of an ideal donor (also known as a standard criteria donor or SCD), i.e. they may be older, have high blood pressure or hepatitis. Because of the shortage of organs, these patients are considered as potential donors, in order to increase the number of organs available for transplantation.

**Eye Bank**

An establishment which imports, processes and/or distributes ocular tissue

**Histocompatibility laboratory (or HLA or Tissue Typing Laboratory)**

A laboratory that performs HLA tissue typing of donors and recipients, and performs cross match testing to determine the degree of compatibility between donor and recipient.

**Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)**

The major antigen compatibility complex in humans that is genetically determined and is involved in cell self-identification. These protein molecules can provoke an immune response and the development of antibodies. If the recipient has preformed antibodies to the donor's HLA type, there is a risk of rejection of the graft or organ.

**Highly Sensitized Patient (HSP)**

A patient who has been exposed to foreign tissue either through previous transfusions, transplantation or pregnancy, and who has developed antibodies against many common Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) molecules. As a result, the majority of organs that become available are incompatible and cannot be transplanted to these patients.

**Intended donor**

Someone who has clearly identified his/her intent to become a donor by signing a donor card and/or asking to be listed on a registry and who has discussed his/her decision with their family.

**Listing**

The process for placing an individual on a waitlist to receive an organ/tissue transplant, and for managing that individual's rank and status on the waitlist.

**Living Donor Paired Exchange**

Frequently, healthy and motivated people are unable to be living kidney donors for their spouses, relatives or friends because their blood group or tissue type is incompatible with their intended recipient. In a paired exchange, these live donors - healthy people who donate one of their two kidneys - are matched with other compatible recipients. Once an acceptable match is made, transplantations can occur between two sets of kidney donors and recipients.

**Neurological Determination of Death (NDD)**

The process and procedure for determining death of the individual based on neurological or brain-based criteria.

**Organ Donation Organization (ODO), Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)**

An organization that is responsible for the facilitation of cell, tissue, or organ donation (procurement), retrieval and distribution. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Receiving referrals for donation
- Collecting the information necessary to determine the suitability of the donor and their cells, tissues, or organs
- Offering the cells, tissues or organs to the appropriate transplant program
- Coordinating the retrieval of the cells, tissues, or organs
- Preserving, storing, transporting, releasing, and delivering the cells, tissues, or organs to the transplant program
- Documenting this process

**Potential Donor**

Someone who has died and for whom consent for donation has been obtained or someone who is alive and has been approved for donation.

**Processing**

In respect to cells, tissues and organs, any of the following activities:

- donor screening
- donor testing
- donor suitability assessment
- retrieval, except for organs and islet cells
- testing and measurements after retrieval
- preparation for use in transplantation, except for organs
- preservation
- quarantine
- banking
- packaging and labeling

**Recipient**

A person who receives a transplant.

**Retrieval**

The dissection and surgical removal of cells, tissues or organs from a living or deceased donor.

**Surgical Bone Bank**

An establishment which imports, processes and/or distributes femoral heads obtained from living donors.

**Tissue Bank**

An establishment which imports, processes and/or distributes musculoskeletal, cardiac, vascular, skin, amniotic membrane and or soft tissue.

**Traceability**

The ability to account for tissues or organs, in terms of current status or location, at all points of their life, from initial collection from a donor through to either transplantation or disposal. This is particularly important with respect to prevention of transmittable infections.

**Transplant Follow-up**

The process of monitoring and evaluating the ongoing health and organ/tissue function of transplant recipients.

**Warm ischemic time**

The time interval between cardiac death and the initiation of organ preservation. Warm ischemic time has significant implications for organ viability for transplantation.

## Acronyms

AATB	American Association of Tissue Banks
BGTD	Health Canada Bureau of Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate
CBS	Canadian Blood Services
CCDT	Canadian Council for Donation and Transplantation
CIHI	The Canadian Institute for Health Information
CORR	Canadian Organ Replacement Register
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
CTO	Cells, tissues, organs
DMB	Demineralized bone
DCD	Donation after cardiocirculatory death
EBAA	Eye Bank Association of America
ECD	Expanded / extended criteria donor
ER	Emergency room
HC	Health Canada
HLA	Human Leukocyte Antigen
HSC	Health Science Centre
HSP	Highly sensitized patient
ICU	Intensive care unit
LDPE	Living donor paired exchange
LOI	Letter of intent
MDR	Medical Devices Regulations
NAT	Nucleic Acid Testing
NDD	Neurological determination of death
ODT	Organ donation and transplantation
OEC	Organ Expert Committee

OPO	Organ procurement organization
OR	Operating room
OTDT	Organ and tissue donation and transplantation
PHAC	Public Agency of Canada
SC	Steering Committee
SCD	Standard criteria donor
TD	Transmissible disease
TDT	Tissue donation and transplantation
TEC	Tissue Expert Committee
TOSS	Tissue and Organs Surveillance System
UNOS	United Network for Organ Sharing
UHN	University Health Network