



Committed to promoting the development of children's nursing through evidence based information about practice and education

Press release – embargoed until 00.00hrs 23rd September 2024

Date: 23rd September 2024

Title: Turn the skies pink for Organ Donation Week

2024 marks 30 years since the NHS organ donors register was first established.

In September 2023, 243 children were waiting for a transplant but many did not get one. The situation in 2024 has not changed.

Children needing a transplant wait much longer than adults and many die before they can receive an organ. More organ donations from children and young people are needed to save the lives of babies, children and young people. Hearts and lungs for example need to be the right size in order to be transplanted into a baby or child.

Parents of those children waiting for a transplant live in hope, that other parents will agree to donation of organs when asked.

Schools and colleges have a key role in enabling children and young people to discuss and consider issues such as organ donation.

There are examples of children and young people themselves making an advanced decision in discussion with their parents and the child's name being placed on the NHS donor register.

In 2019, the NHS developed a neonatal and paediatric donation strategy which focused on enhancing support for families throughout donation and more dedicated training and support for specialist nurses and doctors caring for children and young people, particularly in end-of-life situations.

The Association of British Paediatric Nurses appreciates that such decisions often occur at an extremely difficult time, when parents are grieving for their own child. We are aware that knowing a person's donation wishes can help decision making at a difficult time.

“Children's nurses are in a unique positioned given their trusted relationships with children, young people and their families to help them navigate the challenges they face in relation to donation and transplantation and equally they can help shape public policy”

Professor Bernie Carter, President

Notes for editors

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age

NHS Blood and Transplant - <https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/how-you-can-help/get-involved/tips-and-guidance/turn-the-skies-pink-for-organ-donation-week/>

The ABPN is a network of children's nurses with a wide membership of experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research. It is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938.

www.abpn-uk.com

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