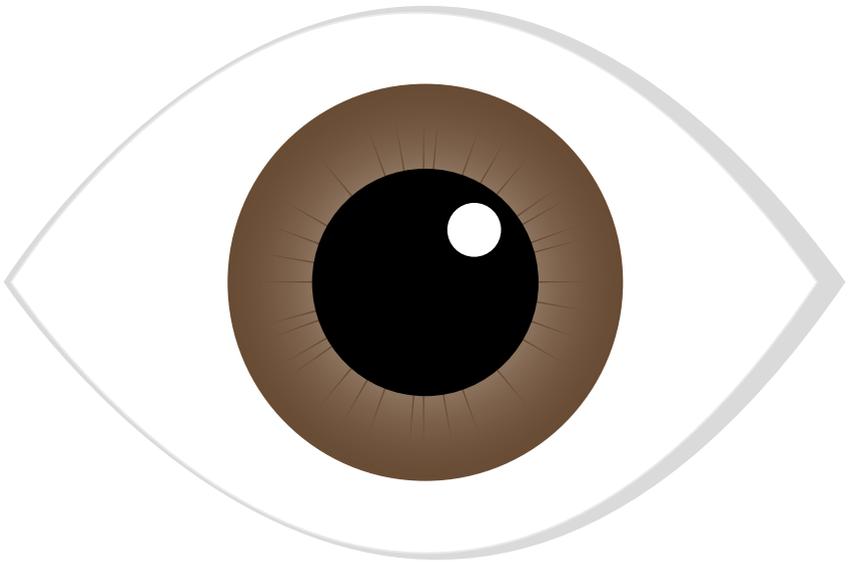


NORTH · LONDON
HOSPICE

Registered Charity No. 285300



Corneal Donation

The gift of sight

Corneal donation

Corneal donation is a very simple and quick procedure that can change the life of people with severe sight loss and painful eye conditions. One person's donation can help save or even restore the sight of up to ten people of any age.

The cornea is the clear front 'window' of the eye. It is the main focusing element and it can become cloudy from disease, injury or infection, with vision dramatically reduced.

Many more people could benefit from a sight-saving graft if there were more corneas available for transplant in the UK.

Who can become a cornea donor?

Most people can be a donor, including those with cancer and poor eyesight.

Those unsuitable for corneal donation include:

- People with blood-borne viruses
- People with neurological conditions such as dementia
- People with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or metastatic melanoma

To find out more, please **talk to a member of staff** or call the **National Referral Centre** on **0800 432 0559**.

“

I am so grateful. Words will never be enough.



“

This has been the most wonderful gift that I could ever receive.

What happens?

The donation procedure is carried out within 24 hours of death and takes place in the hospital, hospice or at the funeral directors. It is performed by qualified technicians. Donors are treated with the utmost respect and dignity and their natural appearance is maintained. Funeral arrangements are not affected.

How to become a donor

Tell people close to you that you want to be a cornea donor (family, friends, carers or healthcare staff). It is important that they are aware of your decision and prepared to consent to your donation.

Soon after death, healthcare staff will contact the National Referral Centre who will approach your next of kin to give their consent.

“

I have regained my independence and am able to drive my car again.

You can also join the Organ Donor Register

Telephone 0300 123 23 23

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/tissuedonation

(Consent will still be required from your next of kin).

For more information please **ask a member of staff** or contact the **National Referral Centre**:

Telephone 0800 432 0559

Email national.referral.centre@nhsbt.nhs.uk

This information leaflet is available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print.

NORTH·LONDON
HOSPICE

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