



♥ *Most people have expressed wishes to be an organ or tissue donor. The most appropriate time for people to discuss honoring these wishes is while in hospice.*

♥ *Hospices are expert in difficult end-of-life care conversations and advance care planning discussions. However, most of these conversations focus “upstream” to bring people into hospice. Aren’t “downstream” conversations about donation and funeral arrangements equally important in honoring patient and family wishes?*

♥ *Most advanced care planning documents do not specifically discuss organ or tissue donation.*

***Mom loved to read. She considered it her greatest joy to share the gift of reading with someone else by donating her eyes after she died.***



### **How can hospices more actively participate in organ and tissue donations?**

1. Ask the question “***Have you checked the organ donor box on your driver’s license?***” as part of your admission process. This is an easy, non-invasive way to approach the topic. If the patient (or medical durable power of attorney) says yes, then contact your local Organ Procurement Organization.

Also, hospices might consider:

2. Include organ and tissue donation materials in the hospice admission packet.
3. Knowing that most people have indicated desire to be organ donors on driver’s license registries should make the donation conversation more comfortable for everyone.
4. Hospices serve patients of all ages, and organ and tissue donors of all ages are needed.