

a bone donor and commence the testing procedure.

Privacy and Your Health Information

Hunter New England Health is committed to providing quality health care for our patients. As a fundamental part of the commitment, the privacy of your health information is important to us and you can be assured that our staff are bound by strict confidentiality requirements as a condition of employment.

For further information . . .

If you would like more information about becoming a bone donor please contact the Bone Bank Coordinator Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm on **(02) 4922 3674**. We will be happy to answer your questions.

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Hunter New England
Bone Bank

**Bone Donation -
Information for donors**

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Bone Donation

During your hip surgery, bone is removed to make room for the new artificial hip. The bone that is removed is often disposed of, however this material is valuable and can benefit someone who needs a bone graft. The Bone Bank allows surgeons, with the consent of the donor to save and store the bone for use in another patient who requires a bone graft. This remarkable gift can make a difference.

Deciding to become a bone donor will in no way affect your surgery.

Who can donate bone?

Many people can donate bone tissue, however, in this hospital, bone donors are usually patients who are booked for an elective total hip replacement.

In order to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases, a thorough examination of the donor's medical history is undertaken. As all donors must be free from infectious diseases, malignancies and certain medical conditions, a strict criteria has been established similar to that for blood donors.

Some examples of why people may be **not** accepted as bone donors include the following:

- A current active infection
- A blood transfusion within the last six (6) months
- Insulin dependent diabetes; (type 1 diabetes)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Current or history of malignancy (cancer)
- Dementia of unknown cause, including Alzheimer's disease
- Liver disease or hepatitis (recovered Hepatitis A accepted)
- Tuberculosis
- Human Growth Hormone Therapy
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) risk
- Current or history of drug abuse

What is involved?

Under legislation, bone donors must have their blood tested for HIV (AIDS), Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Human T-Lymphotropic Virus (HTLV).

Blood for the initial test is taken at the time of your operation. Six months after your surgery, the Bone Bank will contact you by mail asking you to have the blood tests repeated. This is a requirement of legislation to ensure the safety of bone stored in the

Bone Bank.

Your surgeon will be notified of any abnormal test result, as will the Public Health Unit.

If you decide to be a bone donor, a doctor or authorised nurse at your hospital will discuss bone donation with you. They will ask you questions about your past and present medical history and lifestyle, and ask you to sign a consent.

Are there any costs involved?

There is **no** cost to you for any of the tests conducted to make sure the bone is safe to use for someone else.

How can my bone be used for someone else?

Donated bone is often more effective than artificial alternatives. Bone grafts can shorten the recipient's recovery time for many orthopaedic procedures. Donated bone can be used to fill cavities after the removal of a bone tumour or artificial joint and to reinforce bone that is weakened.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time, no questions will be asked. However, there are costs involved for the Bone Bank, so please think carefully before you decide to become