

Organ donation. The gift of life.

Information about the
NHS Organ Donor Register.



Give the gift of life

Transplants are one of the most miraculous achievements of modern medicine. But they depend entirely on the generosity of donors and their families who are willing to make this life-saving gift to others.

One donor can give life to several people and restore the sight of two more.

There is a critical shortage of organs and the gap between the number of organs donated and the number of people waiting for a transplant is increasing. Right now, more than 10,000 people in the UK need an organ transplant and every year around 1,000 people die while waiting.

The need for donors has never been greater. So why not sign up to life now?

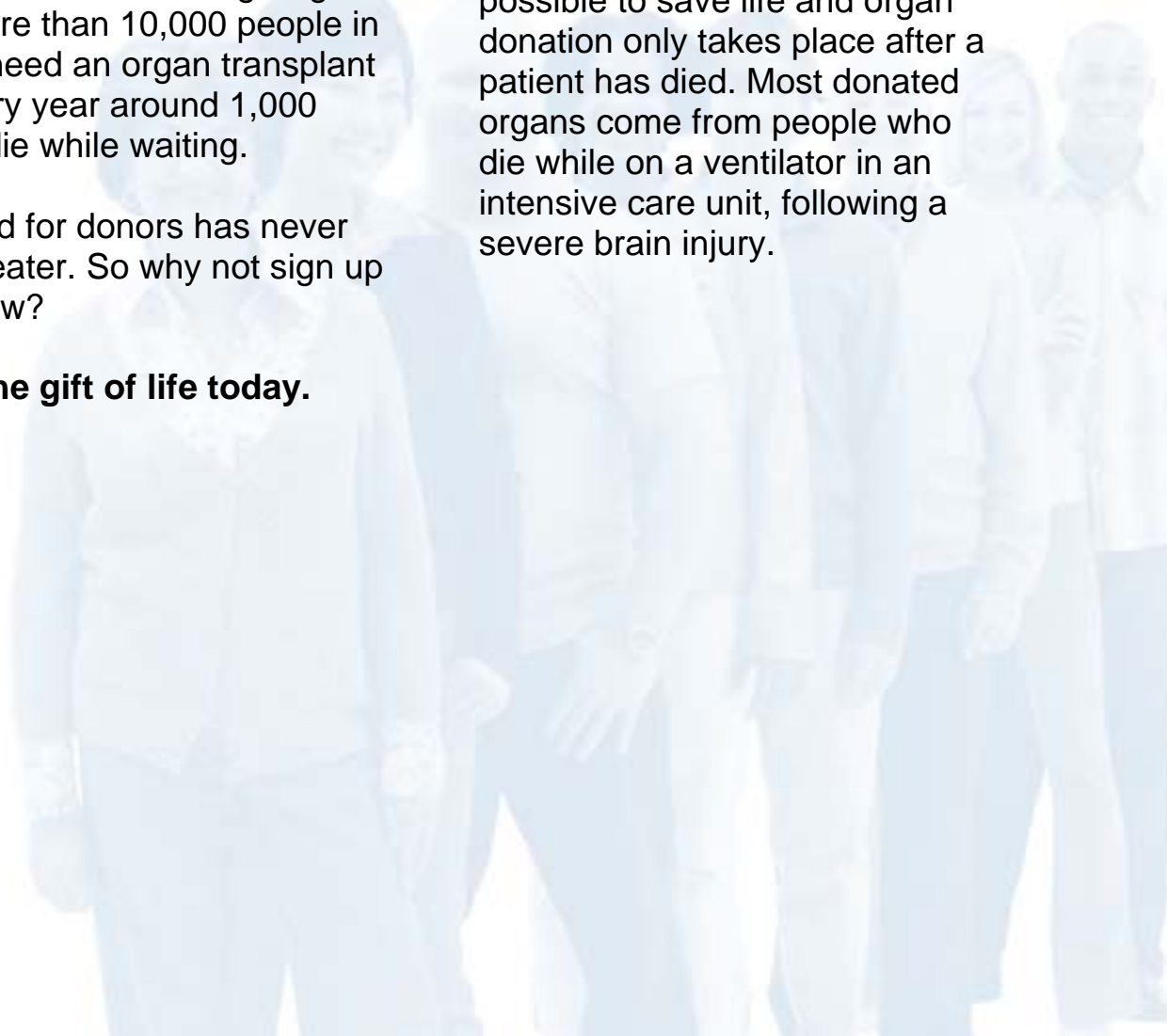
Leave the gift of life today.

What is organ donation?

Organ donation is the gift of an organ to help someone else who needs a transplant. Hundreds of people's lives are saved each year by the generosity of organ donors.

Organs that can be donated after death include the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and small bowel. Tissue such as skin, bone, heart valves and corneas can also be used to help others.

Doctors and nurses are committed to doing everything possible to save life and organ donation only takes place after a patient has died. Most donated organs come from people who die while on a ventilator in an intensive care unit, following a severe brain injury.



Leave someone a future

To decide whether or not you wish to give life to someone else after you have died is something very personal and it is important that everyone makes their own decision.

Even if you already carry a donor card you should join the NHS Organ Donor Register to ensure your wishes are recorded. Discuss your decision with those closest to you so they know your wishes should the time ever come.

By joining the register you are giving your agreement to your organs and tissue being used for transplantation to save or enhance the lives of others after your death.

Adding your name to the register will only take a few minutes of your time. But it could save someone else's life.

The facts

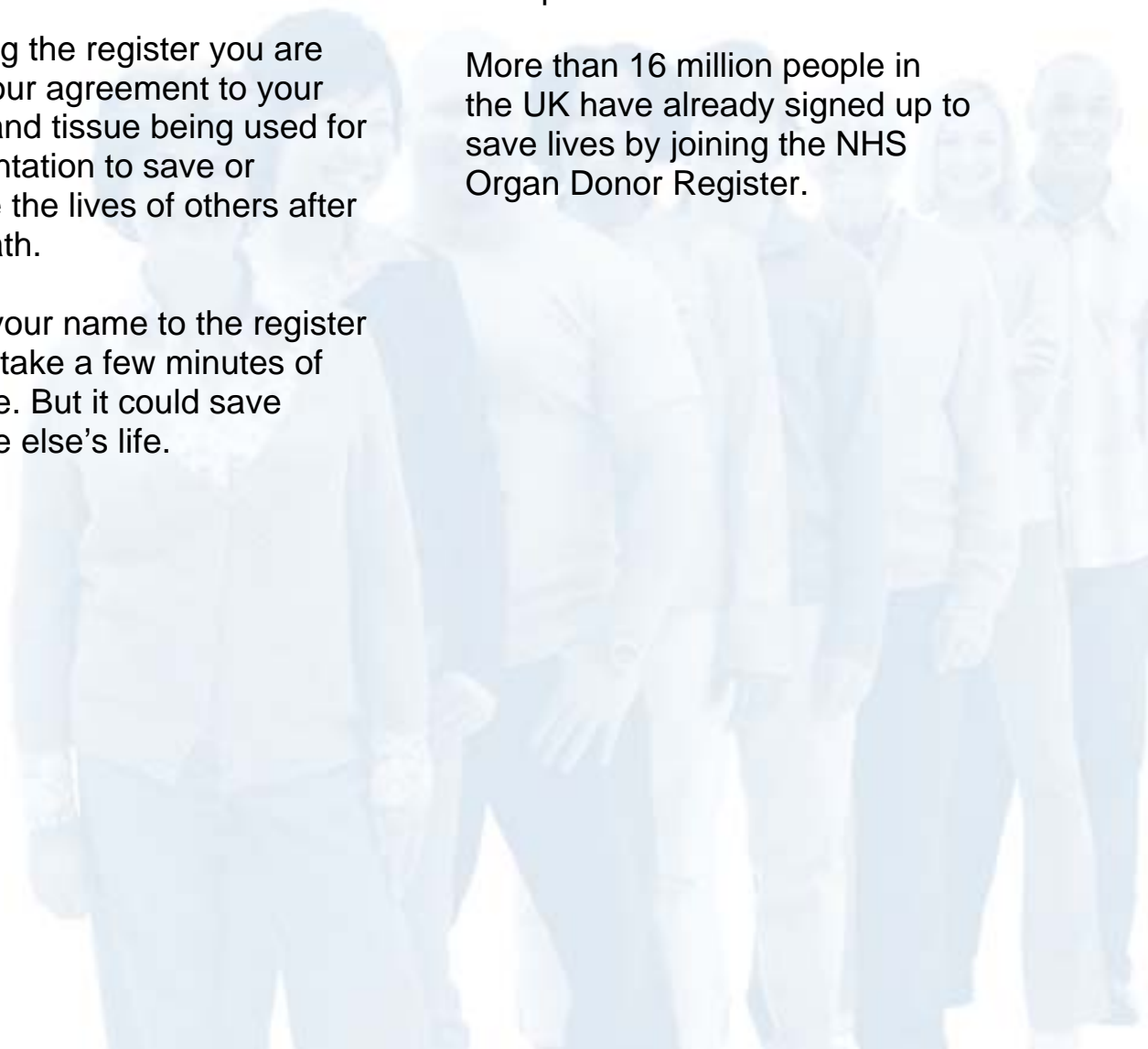
Many relatives say that they have found some comfort in knowing that the loss of their loved one has given someone else the chance to live.

You are more likely to need a transplant than become a donor.

The removal of organs is carried out with the same care and respect as any other operation.

Each year in the UK nearly 3,500 organs are transplanted and over 2,500 sight-saving cornea transplants are carried out.

More than 16 million people in the UK have already signed up to save lives by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register.



How to join the register

**You can join the register and
ask any questions about organ
donation by calling us:**

**Organ Donor Line
0300 123 23 23.**

**Telephone operators are only
able to answer queries in
English.**

**Or you can visit our website
and sign up online at:**

www.organdonation.nhs.uk

If you wish to amend or withdraw
your record from the NHS Organ
Donor Register you can also do
this at any time by phone or on
our website.

Produced by NHS Blood and Transplant.

