

## Instructions for prospective Femoral Head Bone Donors

If you would like to donate:

- Contact us on 0800 2DONATE
- The Bone Donor Health Assessment will be conducted over the phone by a NZBS nurse. Please allow approximately 30 minutes for this.
- The 0800 number can be contacted between 10:00am – 6:30pm Monday to Friday.
- The list of questions that will be asked for the assessment can be viewed on the website prior to calling at [www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz) or you can request to have these sent via email by contacting us at [bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz](mailto:bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz). Please note: to determine eligibility the health assessment must be conducted over the phone and the questions provided are for information purposes only.

Please have the following information with you when you call:

- NHI number (if possible)
- Planned date of surgery
- Location of surgery
- Name of surgeon
- List of any medications you are currently taking

Once your eligibility is confirmed:

- You will receive a letter to confirm you are eligible.
- Your surgeon will be sent a letter advising you wish to donate your bone.

If you have any further questions,  
please contact  
New Zealand Blood Service

**Bone Donor Health Assessment  
and enquiries**

**email: [bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz](mailto:bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz)**

**0800 2DONATE  
(0800 236 628)**

**Hours:  
10:00am – 6:30pm  
Monday to Friday**

Leaflet prepared and provided by the New Zealand Blood Service.  
Private Bag 92071, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142.  
71 Great South Road, Epsom, Auckland.  
Telephone: 09 523 5733 Fax: 09 523 5754

**[www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz)**

# Having a hip replacement operation?

## Donate your hip bone to help others

## Find out how

# SAVE LIVES GIVE BLOOD



## Your bone donation can help others undergoing bone surgery.

Bone donation is where the femoral head bone that is removed during a hip replacement operation is donated to be used as surgical bone for another patient.

### Why are donated femoral head bones needed?

Donated femoral head bones (surgical bone) are used primarily in surgery for patients who have bone cancers or who are undergoing joint or spinal reconstruction.

Donated surgical bone is used to build up the patient's own bone and is a vital resource for use in these types of surgeries.

It is stored in special Tissue Banks at New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) as donated bone and used to help others.

### How do I donate my bone?

If you are about to have a hip replacement operation you may be eligible to donate your bone, rather than it being discarded following your surgery or returned to you at your request.

Phone 0800 2 DONATE (0800 236 628). A nurse will take you through a Bone Donor Health Assessment to determine your eligibility to donate your bone.

Questions will be asked during the health assessment and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete, so please allow for this time when calling. If all goes well, your surgeon will receive a letter saying you want to be a bone donor and your bone will be sent to the Tissue Bank after you have your operation.

The list of questions can be viewed at [www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz) or you can request to have these sent via email by contacting us at [bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz](mailto:bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz).

### Does this affect the way my operation is carried out?

No changes are made to the way your surgery will be carried out. No additional risks are involved.

By donating your bone you are giving permission for your bone to be saved, otherwise it will be discarded following your surgery or returned to you at your request.

### Do I need to meet criteria to donate bone?

Yes, if donating your bone is something that you wish to do, you will need to complete a health assessment over the phone with a NZBS nurse.

The questions asked are necessary to ensure the donated bone will be safe for the patient receiving it.

The answers are treated in the strictest confidence and are only viewed by key nursing and medical personnel within NZBS.

### Testing of donated bone.

As bone is a type of human tissue, if you are eligible to donate bone, we will need to test your blood for infectious diseases that could potentially be transmitted to the recipient via the bone donation.

Your blood will be tested at the time of donation for:

- HIV 1 and 2
- Hepatitis B and C
- HTLV I/II
- Syphilis
- Other tests as necessary

Sometimes from the information provided during the health assessment, a follow up blood sample is required at 6 – 12 months post bone donation. Some infections cannot always be detected at the earliest stages of infection and it may take several months between the time a person is infected and the time the infection is recognised by current tests.

Donated surgical bone will only be used when all testing has been completed.

### Who can donate?

Because the bone may be used in another person, some restrictions apply and the health assessment helps to determine bone donor eligibility.

You must be over 18 years of age.

Most people who can tolerate a general anaesthetic are in sufficiently good health to donate bone.

For most cancers, if you have been free of cancer for the past five years, you can donate. Bone from patients who have had some skin cancers can be accepted even if the treatment was completed more recently.

Note: Answering “YES” to a question does not automatically mean you cannot be a bone donor.

### Who cannot donate?

You cannot donate if you have lived in the UK for more than six months between 1980 and 1996.

You cannot donate if you have had a blood cancer or if you have had cancer in the last five years (other than some skin cancers).

***This is not an exhaustive list, so please call 0800 2DONATE (0800 236 628) to go through the health assessment to find out if you are eligible.***

***The questions asked in the health assessment are also available online to view at [www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz) or can be requested via email [bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz](mailto:bonedonors@nzblood.co.nz)***