

Body Donation

Shaping the Future of Medicine

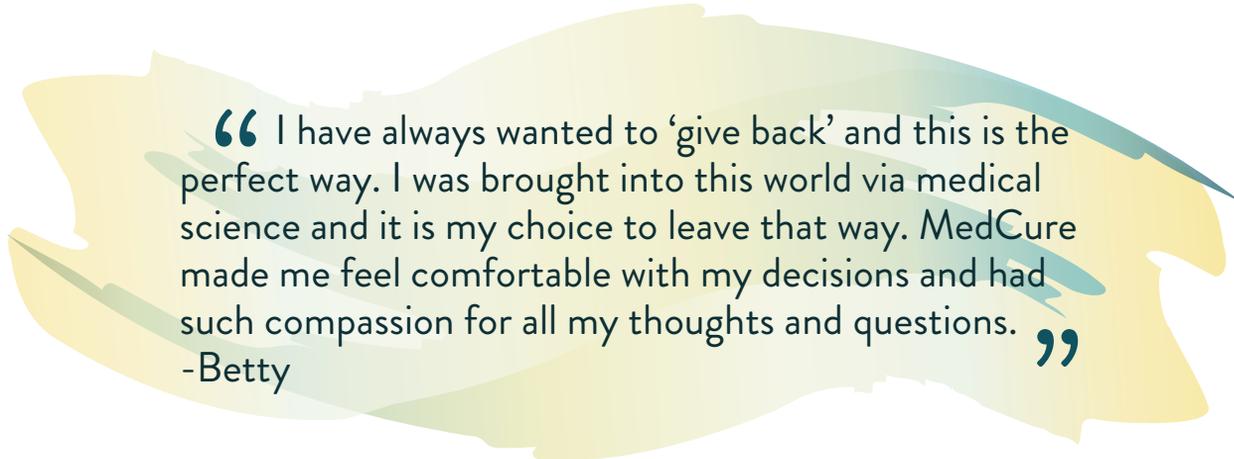




MEDCURE

Create a Lasting Legacy
Through Body Donation

MedCure connects donors to physicians and researchers who are uncovering tomorrow's medical breakthroughs. Whole body donations educate medical communities that research disease, surgical techniques, and medical devices.



“ I have always wanted to ‘give back’ and this is the perfect way. I was brought into this world via medical science and it is my choice to leave that way. MedCure made me feel comfortable with my decisions and had such compassion for all my thoughts and questions. ”
-Betty

Help Advance Medical Science

Through body donation, medical communities are able to uncover and perfect new treatments for the many conditions afflicting patients across the world.

No Cost To Be A MedCure Donor

All expenses related to the donation process are covered once a candidate for donation is accepted at the time of final transportation to a MedCure facility.

How it Works

Most People Are Eligible

MedCure is a leading non-transplant AATB accredited tissue bank. We are trusted by donors and their families. Every donation is treated with the utmost respect and care. Most people are eligible for donation regardless of their age, disease, or state of health.



1. Contact MedCure

We are available 24 hours a day to conduct a donor eligibility screening or to verify donor registration on file.



3. Donor Matched

Donors are matched to institutions or projects according to current research needs. Family letters provide details on request.



2. Transportation

MedCure makes all of the transportation arrangements from the place of death to one of our four U.S. facilities at no cost to the donor or their family.



4. Final Arrangements

Cremated remains are returned to the family within an average of about 5 months or placed in an ossuary. A certified death certificate is provided to the family or estate.

Become a MedCure body donor from nearly anywhere in the continental United States (excluding New Jersey, North Dakota, Minnesota and Arkansas). There are four MedCure locations across the country, including surgical training facilities in Oregon and Nevada. No other whole body donation program offers such national acceptance.



118,000
Registered Donors

45
States Served

2885
Counties Covered

Donation Steps

For You or Someone You Love

Plan Ahead By Registering Your Intent

If you are eligible and would like to register your intent to donate upon passing, visit medcure.org, or contact us via phone with your name, date of birth, phone number, and mailing address. A donor card and welcome packet will be mailed to you within 2 to 4 weeks.

Contact MedCure When Near Passing

If a death has already occurred or a patient or loved one is receiving hospice care, contact MedCure immediately and ask for a Donation Coordinator to assist you. Registering prior to passing is not required, but there is a limited window of time available after death that may prevent donation if exceeded.

Most Common Reasons For Ineligibility:

- Diagnosis of HIV, AIDS, hepatitis B and C
- History of intravenous (IV) drug use
- Recent incarceration or institutionalization
- Severely over or underweight at the time of death.

Call Us
1-866-560-2525

Fax Us
1-503-257-9101

Mail Us
17900 NE Riverside Pkwy Ste 205
Portland, OR 97230

Email Us
donate@medcure.org

Most people who wish to donate can. There is no upper age limit and most disease processes are acceptable. In an effort to ensure that donations will ultimately be matched with medical professionals, certain standard acceptance criteria must be met at the time of passing. These criteria are established through MedCure's rigorous review of ethical and legal best practices.



1. Registering Someone Close To Passing

A donor's legal next of kin or Healthcare Power of Attorney can assist in arranging for body donation. A full and complete copy of the Healthcare Power of Attorney document must be submitted with body donation forms.



2. Contact MedCure To Start

A Donation Coordinator will ask screening questions to determine if an individual meets certain medical research criteria necessary for body donation. Screening results are typically good for 30 days.



3. Submit Body Donation Forms

Donation forms are available by calling or emailing MedCure, or by downloading them from www.medcure.org. Completed documentation can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the Donation Coordination team.



4. Death Has Occurred

MedCure should be called immediately to review the donor's eligibility screening and begin making transportation arrangements.

Donation FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What should I do if a death has occurred or a patient or loved one is close to passing?

If someone has already passed, they can still become a whole body donor. However, MedCure should be contacted immediately to increase the likelihood of acceptance. Also, if a patient or loved one is currently receiving hospice care and/or is close to passing, MedCure should be contacted immediately. Donation Coordinators are available 24 hours a day to assist in the completion and submission of necessary consent documentation.

Q: Am I eligible for body donation?

Most people who wish to donate are eligible. MedCure has no upper age restrictions and can accept donations from individuals with a wide variety of medical conditions. The most common reasons for ineligibility include a diagnosis of certain communicable diseases such as HIV / AIDS or hepatitis B or C, history of intravenous (IV) drug use, recent prolonged incarceration, institutionalization, or homelessness, and being severely over or under weight at the time of passing.

Q: Is there really no cost to body donation?

Once a MedCure donor is accepted at the time of final transportation to a MedCure facility, all donation-related expenses will be covered. These expenses include transportation arrangements, one certified copy of the death certificate, cremation, and either the return of the cremated remains to the family or placed in an ossuary.

Q: Will body donation interfere with funeral arrangements?

Open casket funerals are not possible with whole body donation. However, many families choose to hold a memorial service after cremated remains are received.

We have an inherent respect for individuals both living and deceased, and strictly follow federal and state legal requirements including: the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, FDA Good Tissue Practices, and HIPAA guidelines. MedCure is also accredited through the American Association of Tissue Banks.

Q: How long before a death certificate and cremated remains are sent to family?

Families typically receive the death certificate within 8 to 12 weeks, depending upon which county or state is processing the death certificate. Cremated remains are sent to the family within an average of about 5 months after the time of passing.

Q: If I am a registered organ transplant donor, can I also be a whole body donor?

If you are already a registered organ transplant donor, you can still register to be a whole body donor. However, at the time of passing priority will be given to transplant donation because of the ability to immediately save or change a life. In a few cases, MedCure can arrange for a donor to ultimately donate to both a transplant program and MedCure's whole body donation program. Such matters are determined by a MedCure lab manager on a case-by-case basis at the time of passing. The one exception is eye or cornea donations; they never hinder whole body donation.

Q: Can I request which research study I would like my donation to benefit?

Unfortunately, MedCure cannot guarantee matching a donation with a specific type of research or organization. Placement largely depends on current medical research and training needs at the time of one's passing. Families may request a letter from MedCure that provides general information surrounding how a specific donation helped medical science.

Q: Who is responsible for providing transportation to a MedCure facility?

Upon completion of the eligibility screening at the time of passing, MedCure will make arrangements for transportation and care. MedCure covers transportation expenses once acceptance is determined at time of final transportation to a MedCure facility. Donor families are encouraged to not contact a funeral home themselves at the time of passing.

Donation Checklists

Ensure a Donor's Wishes Are Carried Out

Donor Is In Hospice Care and/or
Has A Life-Expectancy of 6 Months Or Less



Called MedCure and asked to speak to a Donation Coordinator about an imminent donor



Completed 30 minute eligibility screening and medical / social history interview over the phone with a Coordinator



Provided MedCure the name and contact information of the most recent medical care provider



Completed and submitted body donation forms with all necessary signatures (forms available online or by calling MedCure)



Informed family and caregivers about decision to become a donor and provided them with MedCure's toll-free number





“You made the worst day of my life so much easier to bear. I can’t thank you enough. When my time comes, I know you’ll take good care of me, too.”
- Maria

Donor Has Passed Away

- Called hospice or 911 if death did not occur at a medical treating facility
- Called MedCure upon official death pronouncement and provided address where donor was located
- Updated eligibility screening and medical/social history with Donation Coordinator
- Submitted changes (if any) regarding the death certificate recipient and/or cremated remains disposition
- Family received cremated remains (if opted) and one copy of the death certificate



Medical Advancements Through Whole Body Donation

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TOLL FREE 1-866-560-2525

LOCAL 1-503-257-9100

www.medcure.org



American Association of Tissue Banks