

Ethical values in donation

Match each of the following values with one of the descriptions further down the page:

**Dignity - Autonomy - Solidarity - Reciprocity
Altruism - Justice - Maximising health and welfare**

is a special status, value or worth in some things that we feel we should treat with respect. For example, some people feel that removing certain or any organs from someone who is dead violates the dignity of their body.

is about helping as many people as possible, while reducing harm as much as possible. One example of this could be the state working to reduce the number of people needing a transplant to survive while also making efforts to increase the number of people who are signed up to the Organ Donor Register. It can also be about protecting vulnerable people from being exploited and pressurised into donating despite risks to their own health.

is concerned with a fair distribution of benefits and burdens between people and societies. For example, having a system of organ allocation that is based on who needs it the most and is the most suitable to receive an organ, not who has the most money or thinks they are more important.

is a sense of mutual obligations and mutual support within a community. It involves sharing risks and working together to protect the vulnerable. An example of this could be a person donating blood to make sure that there is a big enough supply to help anyone who might need it.

is the control and freedom people have to make their own decisions about what happens to them and their bodies. For example, everybody has the opportunity to join the Organ Donor Register to express a wish to donate organs when they die, but this is a personal choice and some people may not want to do so.

is a relationship between people where something is exchanged in a way that gives benefit to both of the people or groups involved in the exchange.

Example: paired donation

- Jane has had a kidney failure and needs a transplant. Her partner Morten is willing to donate but his kidney is not a match for Jane.
- Moira also needs a kidney and her brother John wishes to donate but is not a suitable match for her.

Both pairs go through tests which find that John's kidney is a match for Jane and Morten's kidney is a match for Moira. With consent from each of them the pairs go through with the transplants. A few months later, both Jane and Moira have recovered and their new kidneys are working well.

is a willingness to give freely to others without expecting to get something in return. This value is shown when someone donates in the expectation that they will be helping someone else without benefit to themselves.