

# Whole Body Donation

Give Back By Helping Advance Medical Knowledge





# Medical Advancements Through Whole Body Donation

MEDCURE connects people wanting to donate their bodies to science {**WHOLE BODY DONORS**} with the physicians and anatomical researchers that are uncovering tomorrow's medical breakthroughs.

“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 and their representatives handled both my parents in the most kind and professional manner. They 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.

Scoliosis **Osteoporosis** Alzheimer's  
Paramedic training Knee, hip and shoulder replacement  
Diabetes Spinal disorders Cardiovascular diseases  
Nerve entrapment **Cancer** TMJ  
**New Treatments**  
Gynecological advancements Brain lesions  
**Arthritis** Neurological conditions  
Urology Tumor removal **Aneurysms**  
Cartilage Research Craniomaxillofacial reconstruction  
**Sinusitis** Surgical techniques  
Multi trauma **Fracture repair** Drug Delivery Systems

# 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 Received

Organs and tissues for study are recovered and matched to meet medical science needs while strictly following legal requirements.



## 2. Transportation

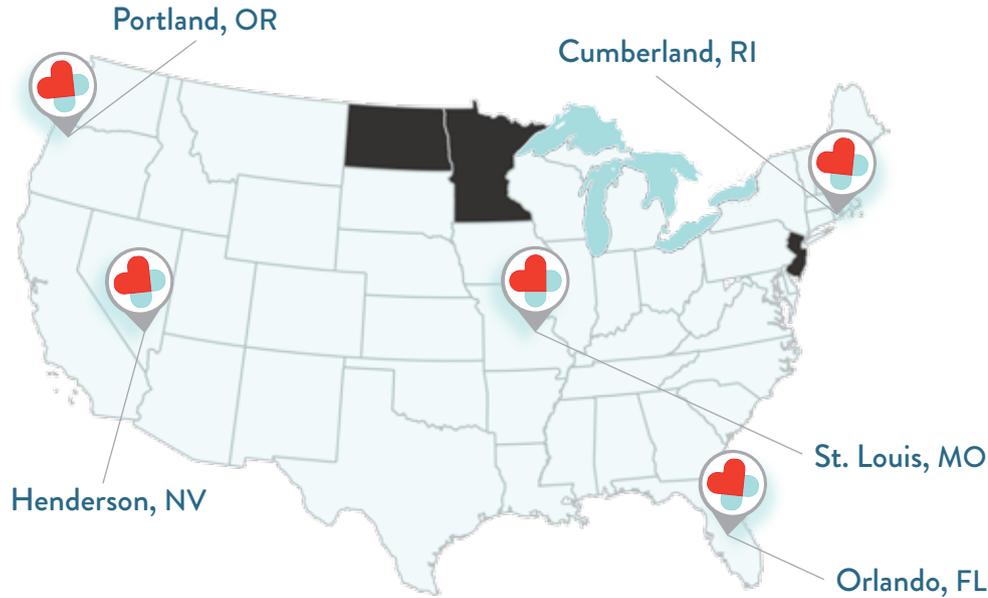
MEDCURE makes all of the transportation arrangements from the place of death to one of our five U.S. facilities at no cost to the donor or their family.



## 4. Final Arrangements

Cremated remains are returned to the family within 6 - 12 weeks or scattered at sea; a certified death certificate is issued to the family or estate.

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



82000  
Registered Donors

45  
States Served

2950  
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](https://www.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 3 weeks. Further documentation is not needed until close to passing.

## Contact MEDCURE When The End Is Near

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/C

History of intravenous (IV) drug use

Recent incarceration or institutionalization

Severely over/under weight at time of death

### Call Us

1-866-560-2525

### Fax Us

1-503-257-9101

### Email Us

[donate@medcure.org](mailto:donate@medcure.org)

### Mail Us

18111 NE Sandy Blvd.

Portland, OR 97230

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.



### 3. Submit Body Donation Forms

Donation forms are available by calling or emailing MEDCURE, or by downloading them from [www.medcure.org](http://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 a scattering at sea.

### **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.

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, HIPAA guidelines, the New York Department of Health, and the Oregon Health Authority. MEDCURE is also accredited through the American Association of Tissue Banks.

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

Families typically receive the death certificate (DC) within 4 to 6 weeks, depending upon which county or state is processing the DC. Cremated remains are sent to the family approximately 6 to 12 weeks after the time of passing.

### **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.

# Donation Checklists

Ensure a Donor's Wishes Are Carried Out

Donor Is In Hospice Care &/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. The day my husband died was chaotic, but after I called and spoke to a representative, things started going smoothly. His kindness and excellent follow-up were so appreciated. The entire staff provided much needed support - 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**



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**18111 NE SANDY BLVD | PORTLAND, OR 97230**

**TOLL FREE 1-866-560-2525**

**LOCAL 1-503-257-9100**

**[www.medcure.org](http://www.medcure.org)**



American Association of Tissue Banks