

see you. If you do not need to attend the hospital before your surgery date you may be contacted by phone to discuss bone donation. You may be asked for your verbal consent to donate the bone and you will then be seen while you are an in-patient. The Bone Bank nurse can answer any questions you may have about donating bone. If you are happy to do so, she will help you complete the Medical Screening Questionnaire and ask you to sign the Consent form. All the information you give will be treated in the strictest confidence. All the information you provide is stored securely here in the Department.

#### **You will be asked to declare:**

- That you have read, understood and completed the Bone Bank health screening questionnaire and that all the information you give is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge.
- That you have read and understood this leaflet.
- That you understand the nature of the donation process and intended use of your donated bone

#### **You will be asked to give consent:**

- To have your blood tested for HIV/ AIDS, HTLV (a virus carried in blood), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and Syphilis- one sample at the time of your surgery and the second at least six months later, and
- For your permission for us to obtain any relevant medical, surgical or x-ray notes relating to your health as a bone donor.

If you become unwell or develop any illness after donating or have any doubts about whether your bone should be used for patients, please contact the bone bank.

We would also like our donors to know that at times their bone is not used. This may happen if the donation was not completed or if the donation is not used before its expiry date.

We sometimes use this bone for laboratory work, education and training, or for research and development. The Bone Bank does not receive any payment for this service.

We will ensure that approval from an ethics committee is obtained where necessary.

Using bone in all of the above ways is of benefit to other patients. By signing the questionnaire and consent forms, you are giving consent to proceed with the donation and that your donation may be used for any of the purposes outlined above and if not used will be discarded as clinical waste and incinerated according to hospital policy.

Should you or your family have any questions about bone donation before or following your surgery, please contact the Bone Bank in the hospital or at the relevant phone number on the front of this leaflet.

*Thank you for considering donating bone  
to the Bone Bank*

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IM-CNOH-30  
REVISION NO: 3



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## Bone Bank Information Leaflet

Cappagh: Phone: 01 834 1211/ 8140 337  
Croom: Phone: 061 397 276/ 061 485 478  
Navan: Phone: 046 902 1210/ 046 907 8557

This leaflet has been produced by the  
Bone Bank of this Orthopaedic Hospital

In line with our commitment to enhancing our service to Bone donors and our obligation to comply with EU regulations we ask you to read this information carefully. You will be asked to sign that you have read and understood the contents.

The Bone Bank is a service in this hospital which collects donated bone, stores it and issues it for use by the Orthopaedic Surgeons for other patients who need bone graft.

### **Who can donate bone?**

Patients who are undergoing **Total Hip Replacement** can donate the piece of bone - the femoral head - which is going to be replaced with the artificial hip joint.

### **Where does the bone come from?**

As part of all total hip replacement surgery the femoral head is removed to fit in your new artificial hip joint. This piece of bone is the ball of the joint. Before the hospital had a Bone Bank all these pieces were discarded. Now, we can, with your permission, keep them and use them to benefit another patient.

### **Do you need this bone yourself?**

No. This bone is not needed when you have an artificial hip put in.

### **What good is the bone to anyone else?**

Although the surface of your joint is damaged with arthritis and is causing you pain and stiffness, it is not the surface we need, but the bone under it. It could give someone else's bone a support structure to help it to strengthen itself. This would give them a better quality bone.

### **Why do they need this bone?**

Some patients have poor quality bone or have lost bone. To improve the quality of their bone or replace it, we put pieces of your bone with theirs. Your bone

helps theirs to produce better bone. You are not saving their life, like a blood donation will, but you will make a difference to the quality of their life.

### **Would your bone be suitable?**

Not all bone makes good bone graft. While all bone is suitable for the person who owns it, not all bone is able to make graft efficiently. Some people may have a medical condition or have been taking medication that changes the ability of the bone to make good bone graft, for example patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis or who have been treated for cancer or needed a blood transfusion. Travel to certain countries, exposure to certain infections or some surgical procedures may also exclude a donor. For example, someone who has had Hepatitis or Tuberculosis, or lived in the UK for a year between 1980 and 1996, would not be suitable to donate. You should not donate if you have ever been informed that you are at increased risk of developing CJD or vCJD.

A person cannot donate bone if their sexual behaviour puts them at high risk of acquiring severe infectious diseases that can be transmitted by blood or bone, or a person who may have now, or have had, a history of the following infections:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HIV 1/2
- HTLV I/II
- Syphilis
- Gonorrhoea

### **What is involved in donating bone?**

To keep your femoral head, we need your written permission. There is a questionnaire to complete. This is to make sure your bone is suitable and exclude the possibility of transmitting any infections. We are also obliged to test your blood twice for liver and sexually transmitted diseases. Currently the mandatory tests

are those for HIV/ AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HTLV (a virus carried in the blood) and syphilis. We need your written permission to do these blood tests. The first blood test is taken when you come in for your surgery, the second at least six months later at an Out Patient Review Clinic. If you proceed to donate you must be prepared to complete the donation process by attending for the second blood test, as the donation cannot be used until this is completed.

### **Test results**

You will not be notified of the results of these blood tests unless something positive is found, in which case we will write and inform you and you will be seen and advised by a specialist. Your bone donation will be discarded if your blood test gives a positive result for any of the above infections. The Bone Bank is legally bound to inform the Public Health Authorities if your tests confirm that you are positive for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B or hepatitis C or syphilis. We are obliged to forward your personal details including your name and address and the results of your blood tests.

### **Should you donate your bone?**

This is entirely your own decision. Your donation is voluntary. You do not need this bone yourself any longer. There is no obligation on you to do so, but if you do wish to donate it, we will be able to help someone else with it. On their behalf, we are grateful for your donation and thank you for thinking of helping another. If you are accepted for donation but decide, for whatever reason, not to donate, you can change your mind at any time. There is no pressure to donate. We simply ask that you contact the Bone Bank.

### **How do you give your consent to donate your bone?**

When you are seen in the Pre-Assessment Clinic or admitted for surgery, the Bone Bank nurse will