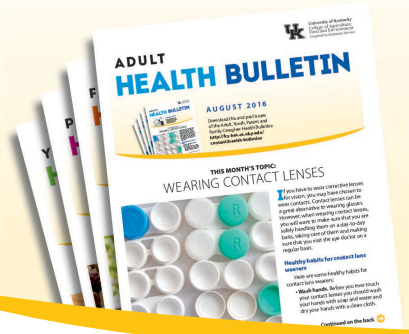
University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



APRIL 2017

Download this and past issues of the Adult, Youth, Parent and Family Caregiver Health Bulletins: **http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/health-bulletins**

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

ORGAN DONATION: DID YOU KNOW?

There are many myths about organ donation. These myths may result in someone not wanting to be a donor. Learn a little more about common myths, and whether there is any truth to them.

Myth 1: If I have a chronic medical condition, I cannot be a donor.

Fact: Regardless of your medical history, you can sign up to be a donor. There are actually a few conditions in which a donation would not be possible. These include HIV infection, active cancer or infection that affected the whole body. If a person is listed as a donor, the transplant team will determine if a donation is possible at the time of the donor's death.

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How much money a person has, their race or celebrity are never used to determine recipients.

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Myth 2: If I am at a hospital and the healthcare team sees that I am a donor, they will not try to save my life.

Fact: When a person is admitted to the hospital, the healthcare team's priority is to take care of the person and save their life if needed. Donation of organs it not part of the conversation until all other lifesaving methods have been used.

Myth 3: People who have a lot of money or are famous get to the top of the waiting list faster than anyone else.

Fact: There is a national computer system that works to match up donors and recipients. The match comes from comparing the donor and medical information of the receiver of the organs. Blood type and time spent waiting, and geographic location all come under consideration as well. How much money a person has, their race or celebrity are never used to determine recipients.

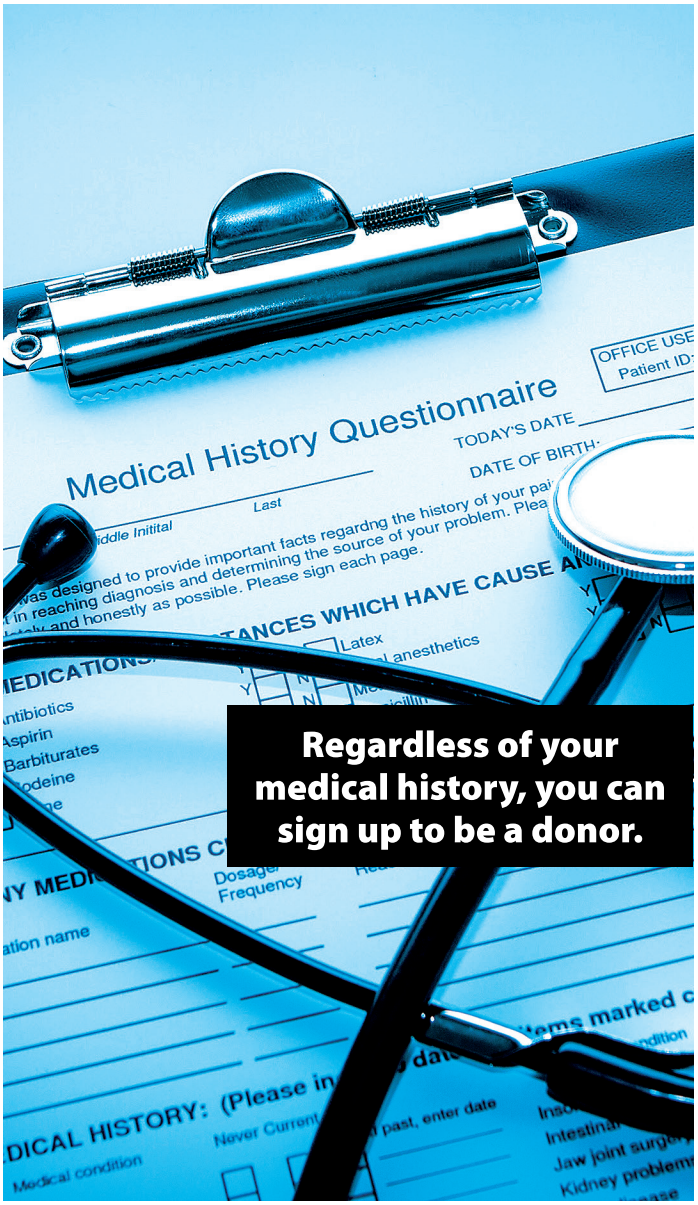
Donating organs can be a big decision, but could save many lives. Don't let myths about donation stop you from being an organ donor.

Myth 4: There are people out there who could take my organs and sell them.

Fact: In the United States, there are federal laws that ban the buying and selling of organs. If a person or company is doing that, they can be fined or given prison sentences.

Myth 5: If I donate organs, my family cannot have an open casket at the funeral.

Fact: When organs are donated a body is treated with care throughout the process. In most cases an open casket funeral is possible for those who donate organs, tissues and even eyes.



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SOURCE:
U.S. Government Information on Organ Donation and Transplantation
organdonor.gov

ADULT
HEALTH BULLETIN

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