



Organ and Tissue Donation

A leaflet for people with
learning disabilities

How to use this booklet

This booklet is designed to help people with learning disabilities learn about organ donation.

Because of the sensitive topic this booklet talks about, it is recommended that carers, friends or staff go through the booklet carefully with individuals, and are available to talk to about the issues as the person requires.

For some people it may be appropriate to go through the booklet over a number of meetings, or to go through the complete booklet more than one time.

It is important for carers, friends or staff to remember that it is up to the person with learning disabilities who has capacity to decide if they would like to register as a possible organ donor.

Organ and Tissue Donation

A person is made up of lots of different parts.

When we look at ourselves we can see that we have a head, arms, chest, tummy, back and legs.

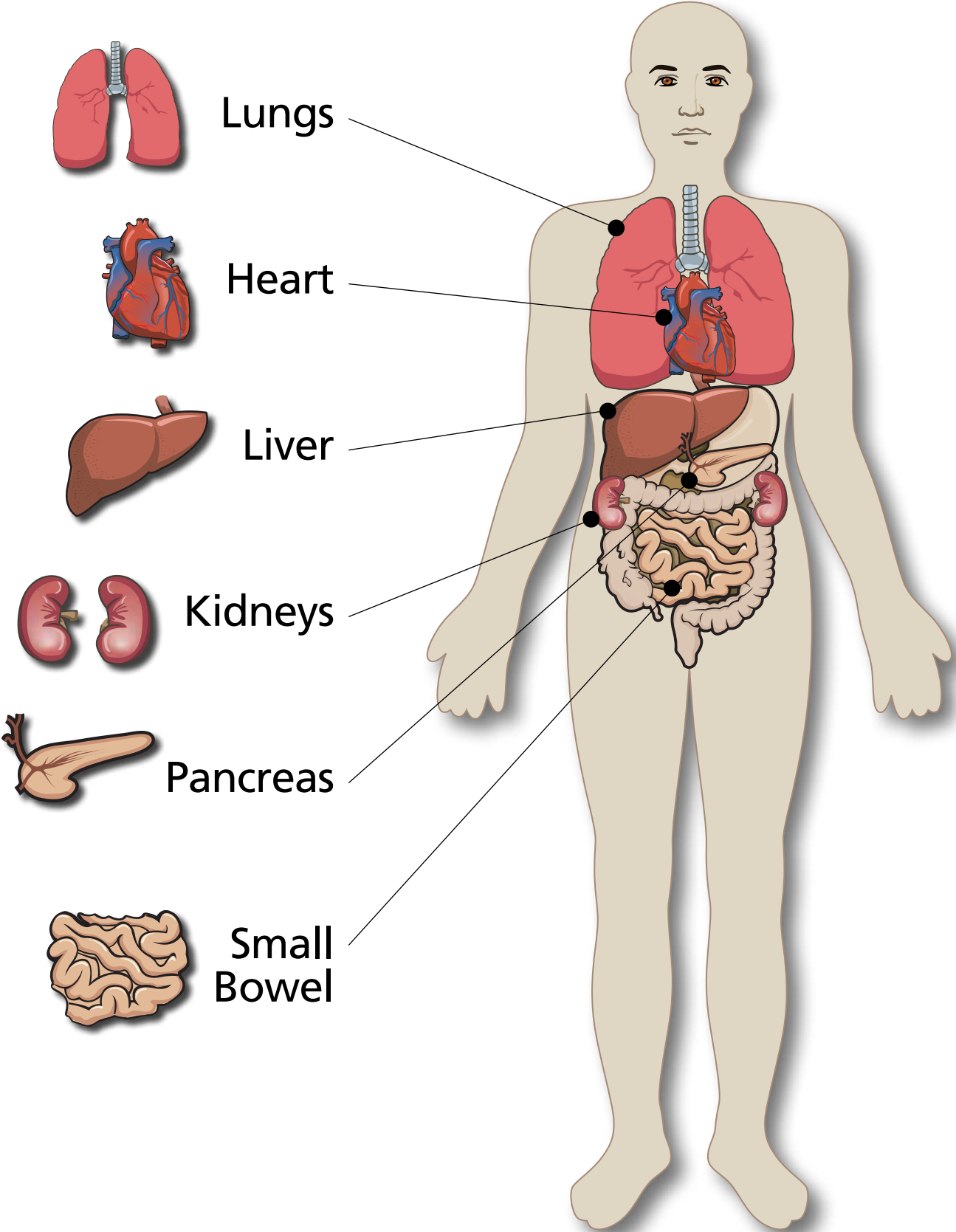
All these parts make up our 'body'.

Inside our body are parts we cannot see, but make us able to breathe, eat, see and lots of other things. Some of these parts are called organs and some parts are called tissues.

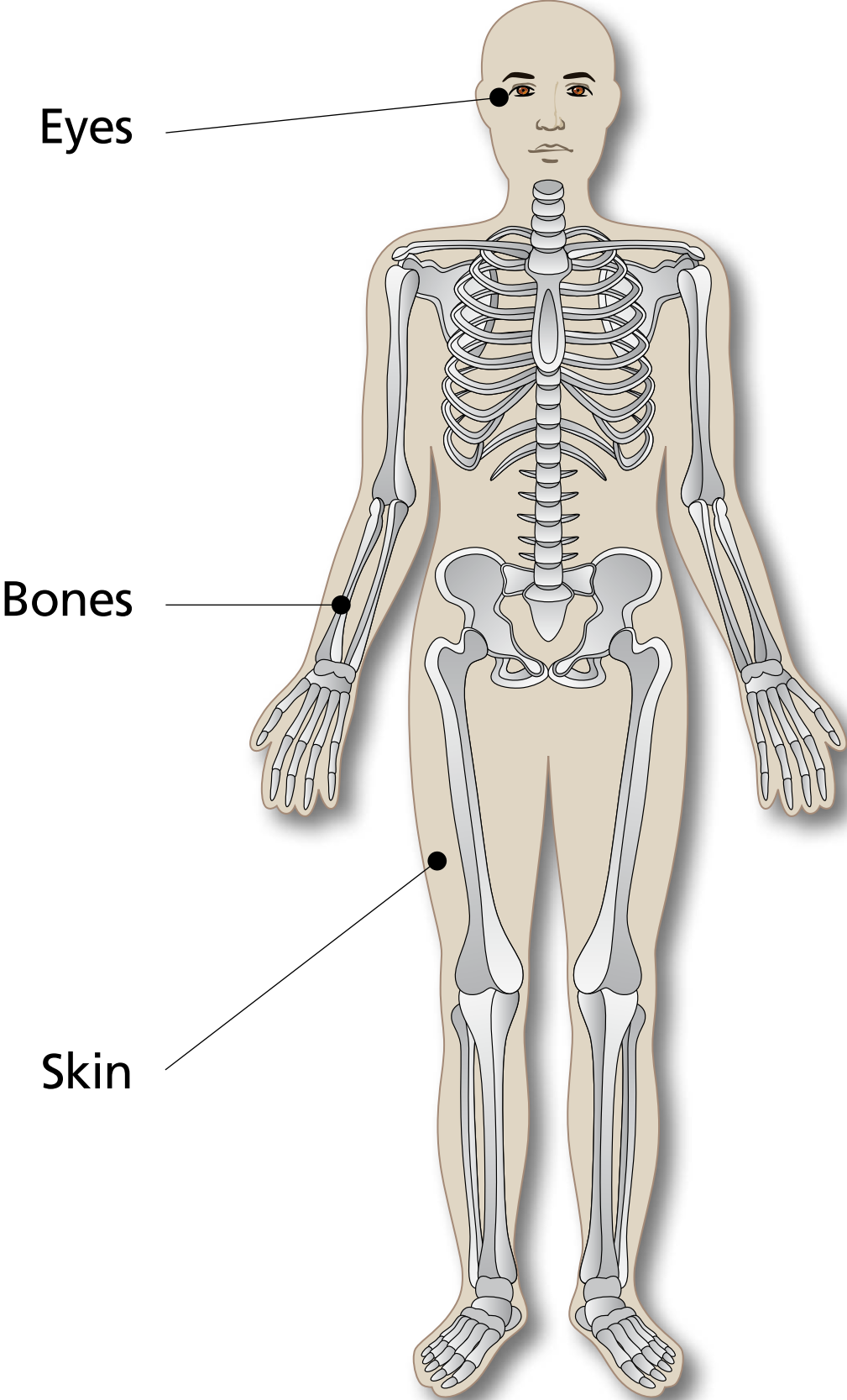
When we die our body stops working. We cannot see or feel anything and we cannot move anymore.

The person who is dead does not need the parts of their body anymore.

Organs are parts of your body that are inside of you



Tissues can be inside or outside your body.



Why donate your organs?

Lots of people have parts of their body that do not work well anymore.

This makes them sick.

They need to have new organs or tissues to help them live a healthy life.

These organs and tissues can only come from someone who has died.

You can decide if you want to give your organs and tissues to help other people once you have died.

This is called organ and tissue donation.

Donation is a very special thing.

It is important for you to think about whether you want to do it.

What happens to your organs and tissues after you are dead?

After you have died, the organs and tissues you agreed to donate will be taken out of your body. They will be put into the person who is sick.

They will have an operation in hospital.

This is called a transplant.

Hopefully this will make them better.

The sick person will be very pleased that you gave them your organs and the chance to get better.

If you choose to donate your organs or tissues you will still be buried or cremated as you wanted.

Your family and friends can still see your body before you are buried or cremated.

There are special people who keep a list of all the people who want to donate their organs and tissues and a list of the people who need new organs and tissues.

They work at the transplant service.

It is important that you tell your friends and family if you want to donate your organs or tissues.

You can choose which organs and tissues you want to donate. You can change your mind at any time.

How to become an organ and tissue donor

You **must** talk to your family and other people who care for you about what you want.

If you want to donate your organs and tissues after you have died you should write this into your Person Centred Plan.

You can ask your G.P or Pharmacist for a form.

You can sign up on the internet:

<http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk>

You can phone the organ donor register:

0300 123 23 23



If you believe in organ donation, prove it

0300 123 23 23

www.organdonation.nhs.uk

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