

14. Donation of body for medical education, training or research



- 14.1 The Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006 instructs that a deceased person's body can only be accepted for donation if the person's agreement had been written down and witnessed during their lifetime. This can be given on an authorisation form or as a codicil in their will.
- 14.2 Authorisation must come directly from the potential donor. A relative or someone with power of attorney cannot authorise donation on the deceased person's behalf.
- 14.3 The authorisation document must be lodged with the relevant University anatomy department and / or produced after death in order for donation to proceed.
- 14.4 There is no guarantee that an anatomy department will accept the offer of a donation. There are medical criteria to be met and as circumstances can change, final decisions about whether a body can be accepted cannot be made until after the death has occurred.
- 14.5 It is the responsibility of the deceased person's next of kin, executor or solicitor to contact the relevant anatomy department as soon as possible for advice and information about handling the potential donation. NHS Lothian staff should not refer a death on the family's behalf, although they may later be asked to provide information to help the department ascertain whether a potential donation can be accepted.
- 14.6 The University of Edinburgh's Bequest Co-ordinator can be contacted on 0131 651 5996 or by emailing body-donations@ed.ac.uk. Contact details for Bequest Co-ordinators at other Scottish Universities can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).
- 14.7 The mortuary must be informed if it is known that a deceased person has bequeathed their body to an anatomy department. This should be recorded on the Mortuary Card DC1. If the donation is accepted the anatomy department will arrange for a Funeral Director to collect the body.