

Legacy of Life (LOL)



Mission

To encourage and promote organ and tissue donations and optimal care for all potential donors and families throughout Nova Scotia.

Core Activities

- Plan strategically with stakeholders, including the Critical Care Organ Donation Program, Regional Tissue Bank, Multi-Organ Transplant Program, Medical Examiner Service, Emergency Health Services, and health charities.
- Provide professional education
- Conduct chart audits to monitor missed referrals
- Provide support through District Resource Nurses
- Promote public awareness

Program Manager

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www.legacyoflife.ns.ca

Provincial Policy for Referral

Legacy of Life led the development of a provincial policy for Organ and Tissue Donation referral focused on ensuring that every potential donor is identified and referred to donation programs. The single policy has been approved by both NSHA and the IWK Health Centre.

Provincial Learning Module for Organ and Tissue Donation

A learning module for Organ and Tissue Donation was developed and activated on the Provincial Learning Management System. The module provides an overview of HOTDA and informs health care professionals on how to identify and screen, refer, and document the donation process.

Donation Physician Pilot Project

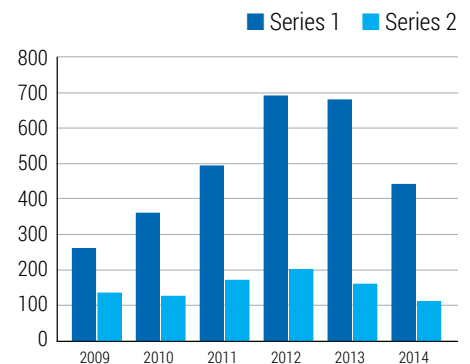
In August 2014, Legacy of Life began piloting a Donation Physician position at the Valley Regional Hospital and Cape Breton Regional Hospital. The purpose of the project is to strengthen Nova Scotia's donation programs by implementing a best practice approach (donation physician) to promote professional education and accountability, and to ensure that Nova Scotia maximizes its OTD potential, including donation after circulatory

death in addition to neurological determination of death.

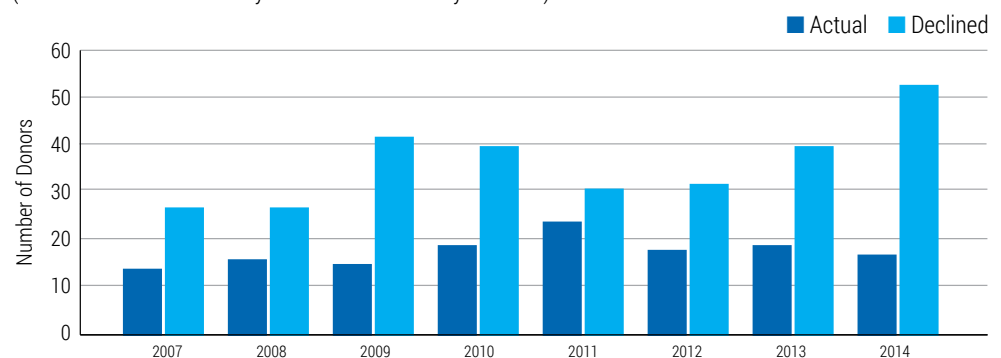
Access to Living Organ Donor Reimbursement Policy

Between April 2014 and March, 2015 8 people applied for and received reimbursement of eligible expenses related to being a living donor. The administration of the policy is a joint effort between the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, the IWK Health Centre and Legacy of Life.

Tissue donation referrals and actual donors 2009 - 2014



Deceased organ donation actual and declined organ donors (declined includes medically unsuitable and family declined)



Cross Provincial Program Initiatives, Highlights 2014-2015

Provincial Blood Coordinating and Rh (RCPNS) Programs

The Blood Coordinating Program facilitated development of a provincial approach to Rh testing, reporting and interpretation of results, in collaboration with transfusion services at the NSHA, IWK, and the Rh Program. Pregnant women, who are Rh negative, need to receive Rho (D) immune globulin to prevent hemolytic disease in the newborn. The Rh status for some women is only determined with additional testing. This testing is now standardized across the NS, avoiding retesting and the potential for some women to receive unnecessary prophylaxis.

Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program (NSBSP), Cancer Care Nova Scotia (CCNS), Cardiovascular Health Nova Scotia (CVHNS), Diabetes Care Program Nova Scotia (DCPNS), Reproductive Care Program Nova Scotia (RCPNS) and Nova Scotia Renal Program (NSRP) – Nova Scotia First Nations Client Registry Project

Six provincial programs from DHW's Acute & Tertiary Branch, Public Health and Mental Health, Addictions & Children's Services, BIAP and the Trauma Program are collaborating with NS's First Nations to create health indicator reports for the Mi'kmaq population and 11 participating communities. Health indicator reports will allow First Nations to compare data, track changes, see progress and identify areas for improvement. This year's focus was to identify and refine indicators for each health issue or population. The 'Strength in Numbers' project builds on the earlier success of the 'Telling our Stories' project, a partnership established in 2012 with the five Cape Breton First Nations.

CVHNS and NSRP – Cardiac Catheterization in Patients with Renal Impairment

An audit showed that impaired renal status was one of the key reasons that patients were not referred for cardiac catheterization. CVHNS and the Nova Scotia Renal Program (NSRP) developed a protocol for preparation and follow up of this population. The final protocol was disseminated in the spring of 2015 is available on both the CVHNS and NSRP websites.

DCPNS, CVHNS, and NSRP

The "Come on Nova Scotia ... Check it!" Blood Pressure Challenge has just completed its fourth successful year with over 100 awareness events and 4,200 blood pressures screened across NS in May 2014. Since 2012, over 13,500 blood pressures have been measured. This number grows every year thanks to health sector participants, community partners, businesses and education facilities across NS.

In Fall 2014, the three programs collaborated with DHW's Primary Health Care (PHC) Branch, Dalhousie University's Department of Continuing Medical Education and the Registered Nurses Professional Development Centre, Nova Scotia Health Authority to design and deliver professional development for PHC Collaborative Team Day events. Ninety participants, representing many disciplines participated in the three-hour, CME accredited program. It included an update on hypertension targets, a review of pharmacological treatment and nutrition management/counseling across multiple morbidities and introduced basic quality improvement techniques to use at the practice level.

DCPNS and RCPNS

Diabetes and RCP partnered to standardize the approach to screening for gestational diabetes and to plan and deliver Diabetes in Pregnancy sessions and symposia. Standardized materials about diabetes screening during and after pregnancy were prepared for patients and health care providers. This included preparing for the oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT).

All Provincial Programs – Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)

All provincial programs are participating in SPOR. Led by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the focus is on integrating health research into care. There are SUPPORT (Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials) Units across Canada, including the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit. Participants include patients and caregivers, researchers, health practitioners, policy makers, health authorities, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and the pharmaceutical sector. CCNS, DCPNS, Legacy of Life, and RCPNS are represented on one of the advisory committees for the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit. An epidemiologist, who works across several provincial programs, co-chairs the Data Access Privacy Advisory Committee.