



Memo

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Nadya Savoie, Administrative Director, NB Organ and Tissue Program
Debbie Jefferson, Manager, Ocular Division, NB Organ and Tissue Program
Date: May 15, 2020
Re: **Cornea recoveries resuming in the Saint John area**

The Ocular Division of the NB Organ and Tissue Program (NBOTP) will resume cornea recoveries at reduced operations.

As Horizon transitions into Phase 2 (Orange) of its recovery plan, allowing some additional priority elective surgeries to resume, NBOTP is also preparing to resume some activities such as cornea recoveries.

Recoveries were previously suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Brunswick. As of May 19, NBOTP will re-introduce cornea recoveries at reduced operations and in the Saint John area only. Non-ocular tissue recoveries remain suspended at this time.

As of **Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 a.m.**, and until further notice **in the Saint John area only**, please observe the following protocol:

- **Report only** the deaths of patients **up to the age of 75**.
- Call the locating service at Horizon's Saint John Regional Hospital (506-648-6000) to have the Eye Bank Technician on call paged and to report in-hospital deaths of patients up to the age of 75 for screening for cornea donation.

Dalhousie University's Human Body Donation Program remains closed until further notice. For general inquiries, please call: **1-902-494-6850**.

Continue to contact the **Organ Donation Resource Nurse on call at 506-643-6848** for Organ Donation referrals or inquiries.

If you have any questions regarding cornea recoveries/donation or the above-mentioned protocol, please call our **Ocular Division at Horizon's St. Joseph's Hospital** at: **506-632-5541**.

To order allografts from our Tissue Division, proceed as usual. We will provide updated information as services continue to change, or when they return to normal.

Thank you for your collaboration and understanding,
Nadya Savoie and Debbie Jefferson