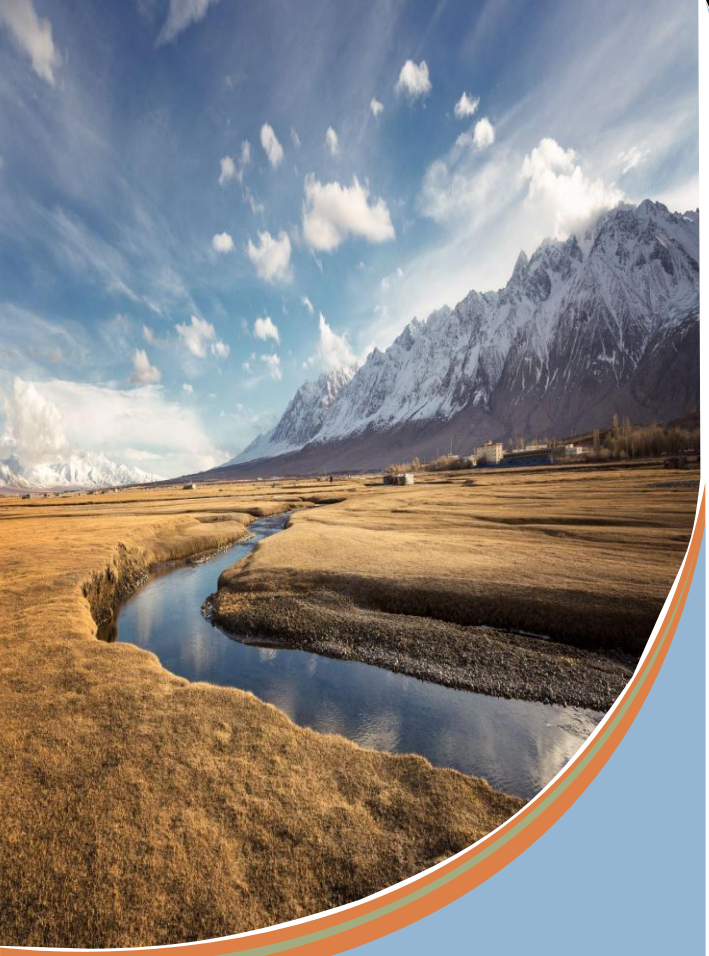


In 2024, Oregon rule[1] changed to allow hospitals to release surgically removed body parts. The change is meant to help support cultural, spiritual, traditional, or religious practices.

[1] Oregon Administrative Rule 333-056-0045



ALTERNATE FORMAT

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge.

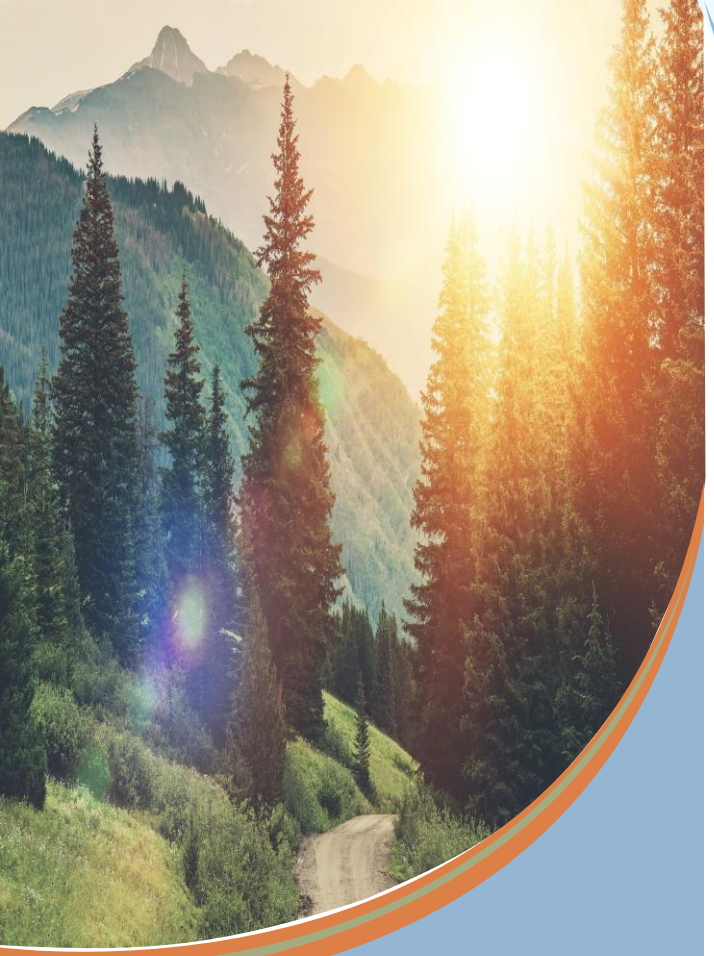
Contact the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention Section at ohd.acdp@odhsoha.oregon.gov or 971-673-1111 (voice). We accept all relay calls.

Removal of Human Pathological Waste from Healthcare Facilities

Honoring Cultural Practices

INSERT LOGO HERE

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY



HOW CAN YOU PLAN AHEAD?

- Notify your healthcare team of your wish to receive any body parts surgically removed.
- Complete an “advance directive” (or living will). Keep it on file with your health care providers. This document shares your values, beliefs, goals and wishes for healthcare if you cannot express them yourself. For more information, visit https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Pages/ADAC-Forms.aspx



BEFORE SURGERY

- Discuss your wishes with your care team and come to an agreement prior to surgery. Sometimes a healthcare facility will not release a body part if it contains a virus or bacteria or if certain chemicals are used during testing. In some cases, a facility may be able to change the usual protocol if they know of your wishes in advance.
- Identify who the body part will be released to (for example, you or a family member).
- Work with your care team to plan for receiving your body part after surgery.
- You or a family member will be asked to sign a form. The form says that you will safely handle and dispose of the body part.

AFTER SURGERY

- Follow the steps outlined by the healthcare facility to claim your body part. Each facility may have a different process.
- The facility may ask you to answer a few questions about your experience. The questions are not required. Answering will help improve the process for others in the future.

09/2026