



Debbie Walford, Specialist Nurse Organ Donation, NHS Blood and Transplant

Debbie is a Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation (SNOD) working within the Eastern Organ Donation Services Team, primarily based throughout Norfolk and at Royal Papworth Hospital.

Debbie discovered a passion for Cardiothoracic and transplantation as a student nurse and began her nursing career on the Critical Care Unit at Harefield hospital. Over the years her passion for transplantation grew further as she really saw what a life changing gift this could be. Whilst here Debbie also showed an interest in Palliative care and completed a secondment with the hospitals Supportive and Palliative Care team. With the exception of returning someone to a good quality of life she soon came to realise her belief that providing a patient and their family with excellent end of life care and support was one of the greatest things one person can do for another. This led her to pursue a career as a Specialist Nurse Organ Donation, allowing her to satisfy both her passions.

Debbie has been a SNOD for the last 3 1/2 years and says “Each and every day I am truly humbled and inspired by the patients and their families that are able to be so selfless in order to save the lives of others during their darkest hours and I am so proud of all our colleagues in hospitals throughout the region that make donation and transplantation happen. It is a gift that can never be underestimated and will never be taken for granted”.