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ETHICAL, LEGAL & SOCIAL ISSUES OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Transplantable organs are scarce; knowing that there are more people who need organs than the organs available. This leads to arising questions; Should someone who has received one organ be given a second one? Should people who damaged their organs due to smoking and drinking be given a transplant? Human organs being scarce has led to innovations and alternatives, since no one wants to die, neither would doctors kill other patients inorder to get their organs. Alternative organ sources are: Animal organs such as; baboon hearts, pig livers, stem cells, aborted fetuses. Buying and selling of organs especially kidneys, has led to a money- making tool, and this makes only the wealthy people more accesible to such organs. According to the First person consent laws; in the 1990’s state began to pass first person consent laws; the law requires hospitals and organ procurement of a deceased person’s written organ donation wishes and does not require them to approach the deceased person’s family for permission to remove an organ. According to current laws; organ donation laws at the state and federal levels exist for two primary purposes; ‘firstly, organ donation law is to help ensure a safe and fair organ donation collection and distribution practice, secondly, organ donation law has been enacted to widen the pool of potential donors in an effort to increase the number of organs available for transplant.