



## Investigator Respondent: Duty staff at the Red Cross Society of Chengdu City

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### Summary

1. Nowadays, the proportion of kidney donation is relatively small nationwide.
2. Donation conditions are strict: A. Under 65 years old; B. Accidental death, such as brain death caused by car accident, etc., rather than death due to disease; C. Voluntary donation; D. Blood matching was successful; E. Transplant "initial match" rejection period.
3. The donated organ is registered with us, the Red Cross Society.
4. Here in Chengdu, there are about one hundred donations a year.
5. Organ distribution is done nationwide and even abroad. That is, when there are donations here, they will be distributed abroad.
6. Where the organs are allocated and which patients they are used on are the responsibilities of the hospital.
7. There is a green channel at Qinghai Airport. We have it here too.
8. The OPO of the Red Cross and that of the hospital are not together and operate separately. The OPS of the hospital has its own system.
9. All donors for transplantation should register with the Red Cross and fill out a form. For those who died in the ICU and did not register to donate during their lifetime, and the hospital directly used the donations, it's required a form be filled out through the Red Cross Society.
10. When a hospital performs an operation, it will notify the Red Cross Society, which will rush over to help the hospital with registration procedure.
11. Donations have increased in the past two years, and there had been fewer before. Well, if you think about it, from 2017 or 2018, up until now, there have been only... four or five hundred people,... four or five hundred people.
12. There used to be (Falun Gong donors), but not anymore. Well, the kind of thing you mentioned existed before, and it didn't go through the Red Cross Society. But now that it's been canceled, it's basically registered with us.
13. The chance of organ "matching" is very small in the first place. In addition, there are very few sources of donation overall, it's more...you think about it, there are very few sources of donation in the first place, plus, you need to find matching ones within the few sources, so there will be very very few successful ones.

### Investigator Recording

Red Cross: Hello, this is Red Cross.

Investigator: Hello, how are you, so you are the Red Cross of Chengdu, right?

Red Cross: Hello!

Investigator: I would like to ask you something as we want to do a kidney transplant. The hospital said the organs are all allocated by the Red Cross. So I'd like to ask you how many donations you have a year. How long do we need to wait?

Red Cross: This depends on many factors. This is what it's like: First, nowadays, kidney donation nationwide...the proportion of kidney donation is relatively small nationwide, because the donation conditions are strict. First of all, in terms of age, the donor is generally under 65 years old, and should



die of accident instead of disease or abnormal death. It's usually the sudden accidental death, and has to be under 65 years old, so the range under such requirement is very narrow. The number of those who meet these conditions and is willing to make donations is even smaller. Besides, among such...that is, among these donors, a pairing principle is applied, and this is done through a computer system of the hospital. Usually, priority is given to the immediate family member, and after that there has to be a successful matching. Since there is a rejection period, the principle of location proximity is applied as well, and so on.

Investigator: Eh, then tell me...that is, the ones that die of an accidental death, that is, as the hospital doctor said, the ones they used are those that die of car accidents, or those are brain dead...

Red Cross: Usually they are brain dead.

Investigator: They are allocated after verification, right?

Red Cross: Yes, it is like that, it is like...those that die of a natural death would be registered with the Red Cross that'll also witness the donation. Then the use and distribution, that is, where the organs are allocated and which patients they are used on are the responsibilities of the hospital, and that's how things are. We are only responsible for the initial stage, such as the registration. That is, when a person is still normal, he can register. It's a concrete

registration, and such registration includes his wish for donations when he is about to die. And then we will go and handle these formalities. This is what we do, taking care of the early stage. And the later stage is handled by the hospital.

Investigator: I...what I heard from you was, whether it is a car accident or anything, it will be handled by the hospital, and what you do are all those people who make donations, and all of those will go through you, right? All of those steps are through you guys, right?

Red Cross: Donation making is registered with us.

Investigator: Eh, how many donations do you have in a year? Can we...how long do we need to wait?

Red Cross: Not many. Like here in Chengdu, the donations in a year are anywhere between a few dozens and a hundred.

Investigator: Between a few dozens and a hundred, you say?

Red Cross: Yes.

Investigator: That is, these few dozens or a hundred of donations you mentioned are all normal ones that can be used, provided to be used, right? They are all valid ones, right?

Red Cross: Not necessarily so. What I meant to say was, those who are willing to make donations. There are also cases such as that the organ has been removed, but since the removed organ has a valid period. For instance, after the organ is removed, the patient needs to be...for instance, the patient has only gone through an initial matching, he may...he may use it. But after the organ removal, say, during the process, he can't...for instance, he has rejection or something, so the organ might not be placed...used for that patient. The donor, however, has already agreed to make the donation, and the organ has been removed. And the number of such donations is about a hundred. It's not too many, it's...it's really very few. This is the situation in Chengdu.

Investigator: So, the organs, from our province, could.....you were saying they could be sent to other places. Also, organs from other places could be sent over to us in Sichuan. You were saying it was possible we get from that distribution.....



Red Cross: Right, right. The distribution is for the whole.....whole country, even.....overseas. That is, when we have donations here, they can be sent overseas. There are also those donated from overseas. But of course, they have to be within the valid time period. The valid time period from removal to transplant is only six hours, four to six hours. So there's this valid time period. Due to this limitation, usually the principle of proximity is applied. Let's say, we have it in our city or province, but if the patient's location is too far, he might not get it due to this valid time limitation. So such a principle exists.

Investigator: I see. A friend of mine told me, he saw there is a green channel at Qinghai Airport for organs. Can we get it from those coming in from Qinghai too?

Red Cross: Yes, they are available there too. We have it here also, the same here.

Investigator: Are there many coming over from Qinghai?

Red Cross: That...that we are not sure about.

Investigator: It is quite close.

Red Cross: About this, the channels used later, it is double blind policy.....double blind, that is to say, who makes the donation, where the donation goes to, where the donated organs are used—it's confidential.

Investigator: Really?

Red Cross: We don't know it either. The hospitals may know it, but they won't make it public. This is to avoid risk to the information security of both the donor and the recipient, it's also a protection of privacy. It's not made public.

Investigator: What about the OPO, that is, the OPO that the hospital has, how is it related to you?

Red Cross: Right, yes, it's the OPO.

Investigator: Are you together or you operate separately? The Organ they got over there.....

Red Cross: Not together.

Investigator: They, too, can get organs?

Red Cross: Actually, with OPO, it's not like that. It's like this, like I told you, this thing is actually divided into the first stage and second stage. We handle the first half. That is, for instance...

Investigator: There are donations...

Red Cross: There are people who come in to register for donation. He will say things like "When I pass away, I am willing to donate my organs, so I am here to register." And then, let's say the time comes when he is near death, his immediate family member will contact the Red Cross, saying, "This family member of ours is about to die, he is willing to donate his organs." He has registered with us beforehand. So we would send our coordinator over to verify it. And then there are forms to be filled out in this first stage, that is, the forms that say you are willing to make organ donations. After the forms are filled out, the following work will be handed over to doctors in the hospital. The OPO you mentioned is a system of the hospital. That is, for instance, they have accepted it...they have seen such a person who signed that...and then the hospital will proceed to the next step. Let's say, after the organ has been removed, they will make assignment through this OPO system. Which patient can use it, where the organ should be assigned to, and which person the organ should be used on—it's up to them to... And then, let's say, the organ has been removed in the first stage, but the OPO assignment is not successful, still it can't be used. This is how it works.



Investigator: Oh, actually this donated organ, and...if, let's say, someone registered with Huaxi Hospital, and Huaxi Hospital is trying to save a patient in its ICU, who didn't register with the Red Cross beforehand. But now he's passed away. Does this someone have to go through the Red Cross by filing out forms? Or, can the hospital contact the family member directly in order to use (the organs) at the hospital?

Red Cross: Yeah, you need to fill out forms with the Red Cross.

Investigator: All the donated organs have to...

Red Cross: Fill out forms with Red Cross.

Investigator: All have to go through you, right?

Red Cross: Right.

Investigator: One more thing I'd like to...

Red Cross: However, in a scenario as you mentioned, the case as you mentioned, it can be done in reverse. Hello?

Investigator: Yeah, oh, I understand. That is, when they have it, they can distribute it through your platform.

Red Cross: Right, It can be done in reverse. Let's say, they happen to have someone from an emergency room (Investigator: the kind receiving first aid), when they have this kind, the hospital may have it...for instance, the relatives and family members have such willingness, they have this impromptu intention, this kind, they would notify the Red Cross Society. Then the Red Cross Society would rush over there to complete the formalities. And then they could perform the operation simultaneously. And we are there to help them with formalities at the same time. It can be done this way.

Investigator: I thought OPO is OPO, and the Red Cross is the Red Cross. That way there may be more people, more people who make donations, and there could be more opportunities. Oh, only...so as you said, there were a bit more than a hundred, you meant...you meant, added together, about a hundred, right? That is really very few.

Red Cross: Right, you are right, the number of people...right, it is...it is very few.

Investigator: There is one more thing. I also wanted to ask: the organ fee in the first stage cannot be covered by the medical insurance, and it's about 200,000 yuan. This fee will have to be borne by us, and they say no invoice provided. Isn't this fee...

Red Cross: I am not sure about this. This...about the fees charged by the hospital, it's up them, the hospital. And we don't know anything about it.

Investigator: Is there.....isn't the organ free? And about this fee...? Who manages that? They say it's 200,000 yuan.

Red Cross: Hospitals are under the management of the Municipal Health Commission. They probably charge operation fees. For that you will need to consult the hospital. For specific fees, it's up to the hospital, and the body overseeing them is the Municipal Health Commission.

Investigator: So it's Health Commission. Just over a hundred. Last year you.... you said, this year...

Red Cross: There...there has been some increase this past couple of years. It was even less before. Come to think of it, from year 2017, 2018, up till now, there are just anywhere between four and five hundred people, only for Chengdu. For Chengdu only, yeah...four to five hundred people.

Investigator: But back then, they say there were organs from death row inmates or Falun Gong practitioners, but not anymore nowadays.



Red Cross: Yes, there were before. But now, you are right, not anymore. The type you mentioned, they had it before, and that type didn't go through the Red Cross. What we are dealing with are normal people, that is, the type of donations from citizens. But now, that kind has been banned, pretty much all are registered with us.

Investigator: So you were saying the organs handled by the legal system were not through you guys, the receiving hospitals were directly designated by prisons or justice bureau. Is that right? It was through that procedure? Not through you?

Red Cross: Em...we don't know how that type was handled.

Investigator: Oh...right, at that time, well....now it is very difficult.

Red Cross: It means now this...in the first place, this type that needs matching...this type has a very very small chance in the first place.

Investigator: I see.

Red Cross: And apart from that, the overall donation sources were very few, it would be even more...you think about it, with the donation sources being few, and you have to find the matching ones from such sources, so the suitable ones would be extremely few.

Investigator: Generally the ratio is...

Red Cross: This probability.....

Investigator: What can it be?

Red Cross: Actually it is really small.

Investigator: That is, those successfully matched, that is, for instance, if there are 100 donations, how many among them can be used, and how many can't be used?

Red Cross: This...this is hard to say, about this, you can ask the hospital. We don't know exactly how many can be successful.

Investigator: Alright, thank you. I'll ask around.

Red Cross: Okay, you are welcome.

Investigator: Thanks. Bye.