

Process to Support Donation after Cardiac Death

The patient's medical condition indicates they are a potential donor. Hospital staff contacts LifeCenter Northwest to refer the patient, in compliance with federal rule, allowing travel of LifeCenter's team to the patient's location and preparation for the case.

Despite the hospital's exhaustive treatment efforts, the patient does not recover. Though the patient has lost almost all brain function, brain death is not declared. The physician explains the patient's catastrophic condition to the family. The family decides to proceed with withdrawal of ventilator support, given the extent of the injuries and the patient's inability to recover.

Medical evaluation determines the patient is a candidate for donation after cardiac death. LifeCenter Northwest coordinator and medical team meet to discuss approaching the patient's family. LifeCenter Northwest coordinator facilitates the donation conversation with the family.

LifeCenter will provide the family with guidance and a full explanation of the donation process.

Medical support and treatment of the patient's condition is continued in order to keep transplantable organs viable as they are matched with potential recipients.

The hospital's medical staff facilitates the preparation for withdrawal of ventilator support in accordance with the hospital's policies.

Ventilator Support is withdrawn. To become a donor, the patient must lose all cardio-pulmonary (heart and lung) function within a 60-minute waiting period. The hospital's medical staff must be present to declare cardiac death, in accordance with the hospital's policies.

If the patient loses all cardiac function within the 60-minute period, the patient is declared dead by the hospital's non-transplant related MD or RN (according to hospital policy)

After cardio-pulmonary death is declared, the recovery team will commence with the recovery of organs for transplant in the OR.

If the patient does NOT lose all cardiac function within the 60-minute period, potential for organ donation is lost.

Hospital staff continues to monitor/care for the patient until the eventual loss of cardiac function occurs.

■ Performed by hospital staff
■ Performed by hospital and LifeCenter staff

This process was created in accordance with donation industry standards and hospital policies and procedures in order to best serve the needs of the patients and their families, while preserving their option to donate.



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Process to Support Donation after Brain Death

The patient's medical condition indicates they are a potential donor. Hospital staff contacts LifeCenter Northwest to refer the patient in compliance with federal rule, allowing travel of LifeCenter's team to the patient's location and preparation of case.

Neurological exams (conducted by medical staff not affiliated with donation or transplant) diagnose and declare brain death.

A LifeCenter Northwest coordinator completes an evaluation to determine if the patient is medically suitable for organ donation. The patient is determined to be a suitable candidate for donation.

The physician explains the diagnosis of brain death to the family, clarifying that the patient has died and cannot recover.

A LifeCenter Northwest coordinator and the medical team will meet to discuss approaching the family about donation.

LifeCenter Northwest coordinator searches the registry for a record of the patient's wish and facilitates the donation conversation with the family.

LifeCenter Northwest provides the family with guidance and a full explanation of the donation process.

Medical support of the patient is maintained throughout the organ allocation process, in order to keep the organs viable for transplant.

Once the family has said goodbye, the patient is transferred to the operating room.

Transplant teams and organ recovery staff surgically recover organs for transplant, and package them for transportation to their recipients.



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- Performed by hospital staff
- Performed by hospital and LifeCenter Northwest staff
- Performed by LifeCenter Northwest staff/affiliates