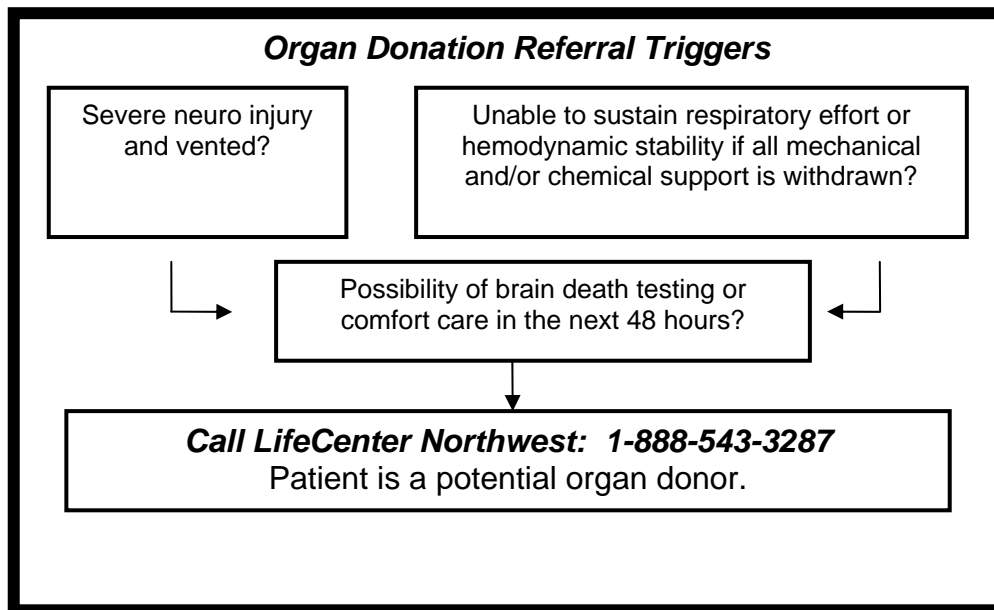


Guidelines for Physicians on Organ Donor Cases



The LifeCenter Coordinator will assess medical suitability for donation and determine whether the patient has already documented their wishes.

The coordinator will contact the physician writing orders for the patient to inform them of the referral, gain information, and collaborate on a plan regarding donation.

Physician can assist in positive organ donation outcomes by:

1. Providing support to patient to help maintain stability and organ viability per CMS regulation (482.45 Conditions of Participation).
2. Setting the stage for a positive donation conversation.
(See transitional language on other side of this form).
3. Communication with the coordinator regarding family conference plans, DNAR, and brain death testing.

Brain death declaration performed in compliance with the internal hospital Brain Death Policy.

Transitional Language

Donation is not a “yes” or “no” question. It is a conversation. Families need to have all the information in order to make an informed decision. The care team can ensure that opportunity by working closely with the donation coordinator to ensure proper timing regarding the donation conversation.

Below is some language that may be helpful in communicating with families:

When telling a family their loved one is dead or dying, it is helpful to recognize the sadness of the situation:

- “I am very sorry to tell you this.”
- “I wish I could tell you something different.”
- “This is a horrible situation.”

Depending on the time frame, this may be unexpected and/or shocking. Let the family know that it is okay to feel this way:

- “I imagine when you woke up this morning you didn’t expect to be here today.”
- “This can be very overwhelming.”

A family in shock may not understand brain death or the need for comfort care in spite of their education level:

- “It can be hard to understand because she looks like she is sleeping but her brain has lost all function.”
- “Sometimes even if it makes sense in our head it is hard to understand or believe in our heart.”
- “The time of her final brain death exam is her legal time of death.”
- “He is not in a coma.”

It is okay and even a good thing to give the family TIME to slow down:

- “This is a lot to absorb.”
- “Talk to your friends and family about this.”
- “We have time.”
- “Take some time and get a cup of coffee.”
- “There are more things to talk about...why don’t you take a break and we will reconvene in an hour.”

If donation comes up and the family is unsure, it is important to keep the conversation open for more dialogue:

- “The decision to donate is a very important one; someone will be in to talk to you in more depth about it soon”.
- When donation comes up too soon and a family reacts negatively, it is important to note that they may be saying “no” to the death and not to donation. Some families may need more time to absorb the death:
- “Now may not be the right time to decide whether or not donation is right for XXX, why don’t you take some time to be with your family and sit with XXX. Someone will check in with you in about an hour.”