

# Hospital Conditions of Participation (COP) for Organ and Tissue Donation

## What is COP?

A CMS regulation to increase organ donation and save lives. All hospitals that receive Medicare reimbursement are to identify and refer all deaths and imminent deaths to the Donor Referral Line.

## Key points of COP:

Hospitals are to:

- Notify the designated Donor Referral Line of all individuals whose death is imminent or who has died.
  - **Imminent death** is defined as a severely neurologically injured ventilator dependant patient with **either** a Glasgow Coma Score  $\leq 5$  **or** discussion about withdraw of support.
- Ensure the family of each potential donor is informed of their options to donate by a donation agency coordinator or trained designated requestor.
- Continue to apply discretion and sensitivity with respect to circumstances, views and beliefs of the families of potential donors.
- Have an agreement with the designated organ procurement organization and at least one tissue and eye bank.
- Maintain a cooperative working relationship with the donation agencies for:
  - Education of staff on donation issues
  - Review of death records to improve identification of potential donors
  - Maintaining potential donors

## Does this mean every family will be approached with the option of donation?

Not necessarily, all referral calls are to be places to the Donor Referral Line PRIOR to family approach to evaluate medical suitability. This process insures families will be approached with only the appropriate options. If the patient is unable to donate, there is no need to approach the next-of-kin. If donation is an option, the donation agency will facilitate the family approach. The referral call and outcome must be documented in the patient chart.

## Does this mean all patient deaths must be reported to the Donor Referral Line, despite age?

Yes. All deaths and imminent deaths must be referred to the Donor Referral Line despite age and medical/social history. Calls are to be placed on all ventilated patients PRIOR to withdrawal of support to preserve the option of organ donation.

**Make a Difference  
Support Organ and Tissue Donation**

**For questions about COP  
Call toll free 1.877.275.5269  
[www.lcnw.org](http://www.lcnw.org)**

