Physician Guidelines for Organ Donation

The physician has a direct influence on donation outcomes

As a Physician You:
1. Set the clinical management strategy for the patient
2. Lead care discussions with the patient’s family
3. Empower other members of the care team

You can assist in positive organ donation outcomes by:
1. Supporting the patient to maintain stability and organ viability per CMS regulation (482.45 Conditions of Participation)
2. Setting the stage for a positive donation conversation. Every donation approach requires a collaborate plan with the donation agency.

Things to keep in mind when talking with your patient's family
- Grieving families need to have a clear understanding of brain death or the grave prognosis
- Grieving families reported positive donation experiences are related to feeling respected, compassion, and being given enough information about donation
- The key to an effective donation conversation lies in the timing and delivery of the opportunity
- Donation can be a source of comfort to a donor family

3. Proactively communicating with the Donation Coordinator regarding family conference plan, DNR, and brain death testing.
4. Ensuring brain death declaration is always performed in compliance with the internal hospital Brain Death Policy.

The LifeCenter Northwest Donation Coordinator will:
- Determine donation options and identify if the patient has already documented their wishes
- Contact the MD to inform them of the referral, gain information, and collaborate on a plan
- Facilitate any conversation about donation options