

Basic Guidelines for Theatre Staff at Donor Hospital

There are many factors that influence organ retrieval. The impact on your theatre department, equipment and support required by the National Organ Retrieval Service (NORS) Teams will vary dependant on the organs to be retrieved and the category of donor (DBD or DCD).

Abdominal and/or Cardiothoracic NORS Teams will arrive at your donor hospital operating theatre at the time agreed with the Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation.

We are grateful for the use of your operating theatre. As theatre practitioners we appreciate you may be busy with planned and emergency work. We do require at least one member of your team to act as local liaison and to ensure local protocols are followed. NORS teams enter a shared care relationship with staff from the donating hospital to ensure the patients' needs and wishes are met fully, resulting in the best possible outcomes for the donor, the family and recipients.

NORS teams consist of specialist staff that are fully trained and competent in their individual roles; Abdominal and Cardiothoracic NORS Teams consist of a Lead Surgeon, Surgical Assistant, Scrub Practitioner and Organ Preservation Practitioner. Other staff may be present for training or if novel technologies are to be used.

Before entering the theatre environment, NORS team members will decontaminate the external surfaces of the retrieval equipment with detergent wipes to remove any potential contaminants.

All NORS teams are self-sufficient in terms of instrumentation, consumables and sterile supplementary equipment but do require a furnished operating theatre and the following additional equipment:

Scrub Team:

Abdominal Only Retrieval

Operating Table –Transfer PAT/Slide or Sheet

Surgical Masks, gowns and gloves

X1 Large Surgical Trolleys

X1 Small Surgical Trolley

X2 Suction Machines with extra inserts

Diathermy Generators

X2 Bowl Stands

X1 Mayo table

Swab/Curity bags for soiled raytec

Organ Preservation Practitioner:

Abdominal Only Retrieval

X1 Medium Surgical Trolley (as working surface)

Unsterile Gloves

Syringes, needles and Sharps container

X2 Drip Stands

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Additional Cardiothoracic Equipment

X1 Large Surgical Trolley

X1 Small Surgical Trolley

X1 Basin Stand

X1 Diathermy Generator

Additional Cardiothoracic

X1 Medium Surgical Trolley (as working surface)

Unsterile Gloves

Syringes, needles and Sharps container

X2 Drip Stands

SNOD:

X1 small trolley to work from to accommodate I-pad and paperwork.

Last offices sundries are required in line with local policy.

Staffing Required from donor hospital:

X1 Circulating practitioner to support both abdominal and cardiothoracic teams.

X1 Anaesthetic Assistant to support anaesthetist in DBD donation (and DCD where heart or lungs are to be retrieved).

NORS team appreciate the enormity of the organ donation operative procedure. Although an everyday occurrence for them, they appreciate that it may be unusual for the donor theatre staff. Part of the NORS team role is one of ambassadors promoting organ donation and transplantation. They also maintain a teaching and education role; therefore, please feel free to ask any questions.