

Identification and Referral of Potential Organ Donors

Identify potential donors as early as possible if either of the following criteria are met.

Patients with severe brain injury if

- *One or more cranial nerve reflexes is absent and the Glasgow Coma Score is 4 or less and cannot be explained by sedation, or*
- *A decision has been made to perform brain stem death tests*

Patients for whom a decision has been made to withdraw life-sustaining treatment

Continue on-going and supportive critical care.

Step 1. Call Organ Donor Referral Line 03000 203040. Provide your hospital name, your name, direct dial number and reason for your call. You will receive a call back within 20 minutes.

Step 2. A member of the organ donation specialist nursing team will contact you and ask a series of structured questions to determine the suitability of the patient to become an organ donor.

Providing the information requested will enable the team to undertake a robust assessment, provide a decision about suitability and plan next steps.

Having access to the following information will be useful.

Patient name, DOB, address, NHS/CHI Number, height and weight

Ventilation type, settings, spontaneous breathing rate and ABGs

Past medical history including active infections

Current clinical condition, primary diagnosis, anticipated cause of death and details of events associated with admission

Date (and time if known) of hospital and unit admission

Haemodynamic status including vital signs, haemodynamic support and urine output

Conscious level, sedation, cough & gag reflex and pupil reaction to light

Clinical plan and family circumstances

Current blood results (including pre-admission Creatinine result if available)

Post Referral Actions

If a plan is made for the organ donation team to attend, access to the following information below will enable thorough assessment, support family conversations and expedite the donation process.

Documentation

Patient medical notes (current and historical)

Ensure all routine Critical Care documents, results and reports (including CT scan) are available

Please note : If Trust/NHS health board utilises an electronic system, please ensure the visiting Specialist Nurse will have ability to review documents

Contact patients registered GP surgery explaining that the patient is an inpatient in Critical Care, request a summary of patient history and medication

Documentation of any family/next of kin communications surrounding end of life care and futility

Investigations and Tests

Admission and most recent blood results including; U&E's, eGFR, CRP, LFTs, GGT, Glucose, Amylase, Full Blood Count and Coagulation Profile

If bloods were taken more than 12 hours ago additional samples may be requested

Patient blood group and printed copy of result

Access to ABG results performed within 24 hours

Current microbiology results including; cultures, sputum, urine

Urinalysis results

At request of Organ Donation Team only

If notified that the patient has registered a decision to donate on the Organ Donor Register, you **may** be asked to draw bloods for additional testing.

You will receive detailed explanations of this process if appropriate.

What to expect when the organ donation team arrive:

To best support the patient's family and provide them with all appropriate donation options, a review of the medical notes and a clinical assessment will be undertaken.

Following this a planning conversation with the consultant and bedside nurse will take place prior to any discussion regarding organ donation.