



Clinical Staff Executive Committee

MEDICAL CENTER POLICY NO. 0098

- A. SUBJECT: Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation
- B. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013 (R)
- C. POLICY:

In order to provide a well-coordinated and humane approach to organ, tissue, and eye donation, and to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and Joint Commission guidelines specific to organ, tissue and eye donation, designated personnel within the Medical Center, in conjunction with the contracted organ procurement organization, LifeNet Health (hereinafter also referred to as “OPO”), shall initiate and facilitate a systematic process for evaluating potential donors, obtaining consent in a sensitive manner for donation, and recovering donated organs and tissues.

D. PROCEDURE:

1. The presence of a donor document (i.e., donor card, advance directive, on-line donor registration) denoting the patient's wishes specific to organ, tissue and eye donation shall be honored by the Medical Center as the primary directive to be followed in such circumstances.
2. In the absence of a donor document, the patient's authorized agent¹, as specified in the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, must grant permission for organ, tissue or eye donation.
3. The Attending of record or his/her designee must initiate contact with the OPO whenever there is a patient:
 - a. Who dies in the hospital;
 - b. Whose death is imminent, as may be signified by any or all of the following:
 - Neurological devastation with a Glasgow Coma Score of 4 or less;
 - Being placed on mechanical ventilation due to severe brain injury;
 - The ordering of apnea testing for confirmation of brain death; or
 - c. For whom mechanical ventilation/life support is being withdrawn with the expectation of death.

¹ “Authorized agent” has the same meaning as such terms as “legal representative,” “surrogate decision maker,” “healthcare agent,” and “legally authorized representative” appearing in other Medical Center policies.

(SUBJECT: Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation)

4. The Attending of record or his/her designee shall document the OPO referral in the electronic medical record.
5. Organ/Tissue/Eye Donation Routine Contact Form in the death packet must be completed on every death within the Medical Center and placed in the patient's medical record.
6. The LifeNet Health (OPO) Coordinator shall document in the electronic medical record whether the patient meets criteria for donation. The OPO Coordinator's documentation must be co-signed by a licensed independent practitioner (see [Medical Center Policy No. 0109 "Medical Orders for Patient Care"](#)). Determination of medical suitability for donation is the responsibility of LifeNet Health.
7. If the OPO Coordinator deems that the patient does meet criteria for donation, a LifeNet Health representative (who may be a Medical Center clinician or employee who has completed a course offered or approved by the OPO) will initiate the request for organ donation to patient's authorized agent.
8. If the patient's authorized agent is not interested in discussing donation, further contact will only be at their request. The OPO Coordinator will record the authorized agent's response on the routine contact sheet.
9. If the authorized agent is interested in donation, the OPO Coordinator:
 - a. Will obtain necessary consent forms from the authorized agent;
 - b. Will coordinate all organ and tissue donations at the Medical Center; and
 - c. Will assist with the recovery of donated organs and tissue.
10. If the authorized agent initiates discussion about donation, the physician or his/her designee will immediately notify LifeNet Health. The OPO Procurement Transplant Coordinator will coordinate all organ and tissue donations at the Medical Center. A Coordinator is available on a 24 hours per day basis. It is the responsibility of the physician or his/her designee to contact the OPO.
11. Prior to the declaration of death, either by cardiopulmonary or brain death, no transplantation of organs from an anencephalic infant will be undertaken at the University of Virginia Medical Center. When a diagnosis of anencephaly is made during a pregnancy, the parents should be counseled about what donation options may be available.
12. The OPO Coordinator will notify the University of Virginia Operating Room Charge Nurse of pending organ/tissue recovery. The OPO staff surgical recovery team will provide instruments, supplies, scrub personnel, circulating nurse and first assist as well as an organ recovery coordinator to perform the procedure and to facilitate the preservation, packaging and transportation of the organs and tissues recovered. The OPO will advise the Operating Room Charge Nurse well in advance of the scheduled procurement if it is unable to provide these services, and the recovery will proceed using University of Virginia instrumentation, supplies and operating room staff. For organ procurement only, University of Virginia Operating Room staff will provide a second circulating nurse as a resource who shall perform charting in accordance with University of Virginia operating room guidelines.

(SUBJECT: Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation)

13. After declaration of death, LifeNet Health will provide an organ recovery surgeon who need not be a University of Virginia credentialed physician. However, this surgeon must be qualified under OPO guidelines, and the OPO must maintain records of his/her training and qualifications.

SIGNATURE:



Robert S. Gibson, M.D., President, Clinical Staff



R. Edward Howell, CEO, UVA Medical Center



DATE:

Medical Center Policy No. 0098 (R)

Approved July 1988

Revised September 1993, October 1998, March 2001, March 2003, September 2006, December 2008,
December 2010, June 2013

Reviewed May 1996, October 1997

Approved by Ethics Committee

Approved by Clinical Staff Executive Committee

References:

CMS Conditions of Participation, Section 482.45