



THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN DONOR CASES:

BRAIN DEAD DONORS

Brain Death is declared while on mechanical support in ICU– once brain death is declared and the patient becomes a donor, Donor Alliance assumes care of the patient, this includes medical management and financial responsibility.

Bedside RN is requested to be 1:1 for donor support

RN assists the Donor Alliance Coordinator with any patient support, including hemodynamic stability, blood draws, administration of any ordered medications, and specialized testing (such as bronchoscopy, CT Scan, Ultrasound, Cardiac Cath Lab, etc.)

RN assists with keeping the family updated throughout the donor process in collaboration with Donor Alliance Coordinators

RN assists with prep of patient for transfer to recovery center or hospital OR

DONATION AFTER CIRCULATORY DEATH (DCD)

Death is declared after withdrawal of mechanical support in OR– following family decision for end of life care. Patient remains under the care of MD. Donor Alliance is resource for organ optimization and is financial responsibility.

Bedside RN is requested to be 1:1 for donor support

RN assists the Donor Alliance Coordinator with any required labs and organ viability testing.

Assist with patient prep and transport to the OR (all DCD donors are recovered in hospital OR, no transfer to DA Recovery Center)

RN administers comfort care measures and assists with terminal extubation in OR. Will also administer Heparin after extubation prior to recovery.

In collaboration with Donor Alliance Coordinator, RN assist with family support in the OR following institution of comfort care measures.

If patient expires within time allotment, RN role is complete. If pt. does not expire within timeframe, RN accompanies pt. back to ICU room to continue comfort care.

GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES:

CLINICAL TRIGGERS FOR REFERRAL

Any Ventilated Patient with:
GCS 5 or Less -or-
Loss of 3 or More Brain Stem Reflexes -or-
Family Plans for End-of-Life Discussions -or-
Family is Asking About Donation

DECLARING BRAIN DEATH IF APPROPRIATE

Families don't feel like they had to make a choice to let their loved one go

Eliminates confusion from families

OPO APPROACH FOR DONATION

CMS Regulation

Eliminates confusion from families

Family Support Coordinator provides best possible support and information on donation process