

## Frequently Asked Questions: Overall Donation Process

- ***If a DCD patient does not die within the hour time frame, does the cost of treatment then return to the patient or stay with Donor Alliance?***
  - If a DCD patient does not pass within the time frame required for donation, the cost of treatment after that point will return to the patient/insurance/estate. They are informed of this during the authorization process.
- ***How does coroner involvement impact the donation process?***
  - Donor Alliance must seek coroner authorization for donation in all cases. If a case requires coroner investigation, Donor Alliance must provide the coroner with any requested blood samples, medical information, and photos to assist with the investigation. The coroner is also able to restrict individual organs for transplant (e.g. lungs if the donor was a homicide from a GSW to the chest).
- ***Why do donor cases take so much time?***
  - Many factors contribute to the time we are on a donor case. Some of the biggest ones are:
    1. Blood for serologies must be resulted prior to organ match lists being run. This takes anywhere from 6-10 hours.
    2. Each transplant center has 60 minutes to review an organ offer prior to accepting or declining. We cannot offer to the next center until the previous center has entered their response.
    3. Centers may request additional, sometimes repeated testing and imaging prior to organ acceptance (e.g. chest CT, cardiac cath).
    4. OR time may need to be adjusted based on the anticipated recipient's needs. For example, if a recipient lives 8 hours from their transplant center, they may need time to travel and complete a pre-transplant workup prior to their surgeon going to donor OR.
    5. Timing can also be affected by OR availability in the donor hospital (bumped by a trauma or other urgent procedures) and transplant surgeon scheduling.
- ***When are you going to OR?***
  - Multiple variables play into when and OR time can be set. This depends on whether the case is BD vs. DCD, coroner involvement, family dynamics, surgeon and transportation availability. Our estimated time frame will generally be 24 – 72 hours from the time of case start.
- ***Are recipients in the hospitals waiting for these organs?***
  - Most of the time, recipients are waiting at home to be notified that an organ is available. If the recipient is very sick, they may be currently admitted to the transplant center for close monitoring.
- ***What is the background of the coordinator?***
  - ORCs (Organ Recovery Coordinators) can come from a wide variety of backgrounds including Registered Nurse, Paramedic/EMT, Respiratory Therapist, or having obtained a Transplantation and Donation Sciences Master's Degree.

- ***What type of notification do people receive if any, when they register as a donor on their license? It seems that there is a lot of misunderstanding that this is a legally binding contract. Can you explain the legal right of Donor Alliance to procure organs in a brain dead, registered donor when the family expresses opposition?***
  - Donor Alliance staff partners with DMV offices to ensure they can provide appropriate informative materials to the public when making the decision to register as a donor. Registration is also available at [DonateLife.org](http://DonateLife.org), which also provides comprehensive information about the donor registry.
  - The Donor Registry is 1<sup>st</sup> person authorization and acts just like a person's will or advance directive. The registry is effective at death and Donor Alliance has the legal and ethical obligation to honor that person's decision. Our Family Support Coordinators will educate and support families throughout the donation process and our After Care Department will continue to support families for as long as needed after the donation occurs.