

Donor Networks

Created 11/17/2010
Revised 09/22/2023

Purpose

The following information will outline those procedures to be followed when organ and tissue donation is sought in cases which come under the jurisdiction of the [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). Prior to approaching the family for permission for procurement, the donor program official must notify the [REDACTED] and request approval to initiate organ or tissue procurement. This contact must be made prior to final pronouncement of death in the case of "beating heart" donors.

Policy

It is the policy of the [REDACTED] to cooperate to the fullest extent in all cases of reportable deaths where organ or tissue procurement has been desired by the family. In those cases where an investigation is required by the [REDACTED] in order to comply with the requirements of CRS 30-10-606 the circumstances of the death (or impending death) must be reported to the coroner prior to any organ or tissue procurement along with a detailed list of those organs or tissues requested.

Procedures

If the death is clearly due to natural causes (expected and/or attended), the donor agency may be allowed to proceed with organ procurement procedures; however, if falling under [REDACTED] jurisdiction, approval must first come from the [REDACTED] through the pathologist on call via the medicolegal death investigator.

If the death merits [REDACTED] jurisdiction, the investigator must obtain certain information which requires a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the death. The investigator must then present the information for discussion and review by the on-call pathologist.

TRANSPORT OF BODY FOLLOWING ORGAN REMOVAL - If the [REDACTED] has jurisdiction of the case and permission for organ procurement is given by the [REDACTED] the case remains under the [REDACTED] jurisdiction until [REDACTED] authorizes release of the body to the next of kin.

If permission for organ procurement is given by the [REDACTED] pathologist and if the case is under investigation, then arrangements must be made and clearly understood by the personnel on the organ procurement team that the body will be returned to the [REDACTED] immediately after procurement, and is to be accompanied by medical and donor records and any available admission specimens.

The [REDACTED] must be notified when the procedure is finished and when the body is ready to be returned to the [REDACTED] for final examination. A summary of the organ retrieval procedure and pertinent portions of the medical chart must be supplied to the [REDACTED] at this time. In all cases, the procurement team must provide a detailed list of all organs which will be removed.

TISSUE PROCUREMENT – DONOR ALLIANCE: Pursuant to CRS 12-34-122, when an individual is dead at the scene or upon arrival at the emergency room, the tissue procurement

[REDACTED]

coordinator will evaluate the case for potential tissue harvests. When an individual is pronounced dead at the scene without transport to an emergency department, it will be the responsibility of the [REDACTED] medicolegal death investigator to notify Donor Alliance when the death meets the criteria established by the tissue recovery agency. The tissue procurement team will assume responsibility for obtaining consent from next of kin. The criteria for this procedure remain as stated above.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK (RMLEB) - PROCEDURES: When investigators receive requests from the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank for eye enucleations on [REDACTED] cases, the following procedures will apply:

The request is to be relayed to the [REDACTED] where the on-call pathologist will be consulted and permission to proceed, if possible, will be given. The investigator will consult with the pathologist to determine if the vitreous will be necessary. The RMLEB will be instructed on whether vitreous will be collected and preserved for [REDACTED] purposes.

When the tissue procurement is to be performed following the autopsy or external examination at the [REDACTED] the autopsy assistant will draw extra tubes of blood (unpreserved) and designate from where they were drawn for the procurement agency. This shall be done at the examination, placed in a plastic bag, and given to the representative of the tissue agency at the time of the enucleation or left on the body and designated to Donor Alliance or the RMLEB.

If the body falls under coroner's jurisdiction, final authorization must come from the coroner or forensic pathologist prior to performing any of the above.

Policy/Procedure Violations

Violations of this policy are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

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Approved by:

[REDACTED]