



# Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) OR Overview



To honor the decision of a registered donor or their family, LifeLink® of Georgia will work cooperatively and in partnership with the hospital throughout the process. LifeLink staff will communicate frequently with hospital staff, including at the time of donor disclosure or authorization, during clinical management of the patient, and prior to the anticipated operating room recovery time.

## DCD Process:

**Huddle:** The LifeLink Transplant Coordinator and Surgical Coordinator will huddle with OR staff to ensure all have a clear understanding of the process, and to address any questions or concerns the staff may have.

**Hospital Policy:** Please review and refer to the hospital DCD policy to ensure you are familiar with hospital specific guidelines.

**Arrival To OR:** A LifeLink surgical coordinator will arrive approximately one hour prior to the scheduled OR time to prepare the OR for organ recovery.

Please feel free to ask questions of our onsite staff members, who will be happy to provide information.

**Thank you for your help making the gift of donation possible.**



# Roles and Responsibilities of Hospital Team in DCD Case:

## ICU Nurse

- Maintain patient hemodynamic stability
- Carry out orders entered or given verbally including comfort care medications by the physician or designee
- Administer Heparin
- Remain with the patient until cardiac death occurs in the OR
- Notify Coroner/Medical Examiner of the death
- Identify an alternate bed if the patient does not expire in allotted time

## Respiratory Therapist

- Perform O2 challenges
- Transport patient on portable ventilator to the OR, accompanied by declaring physician/designee and assigned ICU nurse
- Extubate the patient per orders and hospital policy
- Remain with the patient until cardiac death occurs in the OR
- For lung recovery, assist anesthesia with intubation, re-inflation and bronchoscopy procedures

## OR staff

- Pathology Support: At times, LifeLink may need pathology available for a frozen section. The onsite LifeLink coordinator will relay this information and confirm the availability of pathology
- For lung recovery, ensure anesthesia is present for reintubation and re-inflation, and that bronchoscopy equipment is at the bedside
- Room Setup:
  - Open back table, count instruments, prepare mayo stand, test saw and suction
  - If hospital has slush machine have available before scheduled OR time.
- Prep and drape patient and perform OR time-out
- Follow hospital post-mortem care policy

## Declaring Physician/Designee

- Ensure DNR, extubation and Heparin administration orders are documented
- All orders remain the responsibility of the physician or designee and onsite LifeLink Coordinator will inform physician of requested diagnostic testing and labs
- Continue to medically manage the patient, maintaining hemodynamic stability, until cardiac death occurs in the OR
- Order comfort care medications according to hospital policy
- Remain with the patient until cardiac death occurs in the OR
- Declare and document cardiac death according to hospital policy