

LifeLink[®]



of Georgia

Understanding Organ and Tissue Donation

Who is LifeLink[®] of Georgia?

LifeLink of Georgia is the federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization for the state of Georgia, also referred to as an OPO (organ procurement organization.)

Who is a potential organ donor?

Any patient on a ventilator with a neurological injury or anyone evaluated for brain death, terminal wean or change in resuscitation status may be a candidate for organ donation.

Who is a potential tissue donor?

Every patient who dies may be a potential tissue donor.

Recoverable tissues include skin, bone, corneas, tendons, heart valves and saphenous veins.

Did you know?

- The donor family is never charged for donation.
- The removal of donated organs and tissues is similar to any other surgical procedure, taking place in a sterile operating room environment.
- The family may proceed with any funeral arrangements they wish, including a viewing.
- You play a vital role in the organ and tissue donation process!
- One organ, eye, and tissue donor can help save or enhance the lives of sixty people!

Who calls LifeLink[®]?

Anyone from the healthcare team with access to the medical record can call the Donation Referral Line at 800-882-7177.

Why is it important to call?

It's required by CMS, Joint Commission and regulatory agencies policies regardless of age or medical/social history.

Calling preserves the option of donation by allowing for determination of medical suitability and donor designation status. A collaborative plan of care can also be identified.

Thousands of patients awaiting transplant depend on the donation referral so donation can be an option and lives can be saved.

When is the appropriate time to call LifeLink?

Call the Donation Referral Line as soon as a vent dependent patient meets the clinical triggers as defined by **LifeLink** (see reverse). Patients who die from cardiac death should be referred within one hour of the cardiac time of death.

Who talks to the patient's family about donation?

LifeLink Family Care Coordinators, in collaboration with the healthcare team compassionately speak with families to convey donation options.

Can I talk to the family about donation?

Any individual who initiates a discussion or provides information about donation or requests donation must be an OPO representative or have been trained by the OPO to have this discussion.

If a family members brings up donation, contact **LifeLink**

Please do not mention donation to the family.



Tiffney Waits had a bubbly personality and was deeply loved by her family, especially her husband, Josh, and two children. Tragically, a car accident claimed her life in 2013. Tiffney's young son who survived the accident that took his mom's life says, "My mom is a superhero. She saved the lives of others with donation, just like she saved ours."



De’Jael was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition in which the heart’s ability to pump blood is decreased, only a few short weeks following her second birthday. She had hardly begun to live before her life was threatened. Thanks to her donor family, De’Jael got a second chance to grow up. “De’Jael would not be alive without their loved one. It is because of them she can live out her dreams as a normal, healthy, child,” says her mom, Karema. Now, almost seven years old, De’Jael is full of life and ready to tackle the world.



When should I call LifeLink for Initial Assessment of Organ and Tissue Donation?

CMS regulations require you to call within one hour after a cardiac death.

CMS regulations require you to call within one hour of the following triggers being met.

If your patient is intubated and shows evidence of the following:

- Coma
- Stroke
- Hypoxia
- Brain Tumor
- Cerebral Injury
- Near-Drowning
- Cerebral Edema
- Cerebral Hemorrhage

AND

Any of the following criteria are met:

- GCS \leq 5, not sedated
- Unresponsive or posturing
- No pupillary or corneal reflex
- No cough or gag
- No spontaneous respiration
- Discussion of DNR or withdrawal of support

OR THE FAMILY ASKS ABOUT DONATION, PLEASE CALL LIFELINK IMMEDIATELY.

**Donor Referral Line:
1-800-882-7177**

It really is all about the 1's....

**1 donor at a time
1 donor family at a time
1 transplant candidate at a time
1 day at a time
....and each 1 of YOU!**