



Organ and Tissue Donation Community

Glossary of Terms

Allocation	The process of determining how organs are distributed. Allocation includes the system of policies and guidelines which ensure that organs are distributed in an equitable, ethical and medically sound manner.
Catastrophic Brain Injury Guidelines (CBIGs)	A set of hospital orders to support severely brain injured patients for effective brain death testing and preserve option of organ donation.
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	A federal agency within HHS that administers the nation's major healthcare programs. It aims to provide a healthcare system with better care, access to coverage, and improved health.
Clinical Triggers	Criteria for "imminent death" which prompt the hospital to make a timely notification to the OPO.
Death by Neurologic Criteria (Brain Death)	The irreversible loss of function of the entire brain, including the brain stem.
Designated Service Area (DSA)	Each Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) has a federally designated area it serves.
Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD)	A pathway to organ donation which can occur when a patient dies from cardiac arrest in the hospital. A potential DCD donor patient has a devastating, non-survivable injury and is on a ventilator.
Family Readiness Assessment (FRA)	When LifeLink works with the healthcare team to assess the family's readiness for a donation discussion.
First Person Authorization (FPA)	Documentation of an individual's decision to donate organs, eyes, and/or tissues after death, usually designated on a driver license or through a state donor registry.
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for improving access to healthcare services. HRSA's Health Systems Bureau manages the nation's Organ Donation and Transplantation program, which works to extend and enhance the lives of individuals with end-stage organ failure.
Huddle	A multi-disciplinary meeting of hospital and OPO staff used to coordinate the patient's plan of care, communication with the family, and to meet the unique needs of each eligible donor's family.
Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP)	A method used to restore the flow of oxygenated blood following declaration of death and reverse warm ischemic injury in DCD organ transplantation.
Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)	Local CMS-designated organizations throughout the U.S. responsible for increasing the number of registered donors in their service areas, and for coordinating the donation process when actual donors become available.
Rules of 100	A set of goals for care of a patient with catastrophic brain injury.
United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)	A mission-driven non-profit serving as the nation's transplant system under contract with the federal government.