

Intersection of Ethics & Organ Donation

Donor Alliance

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DonorAlliance.org | DonateLifeColorado.org | DonateLifeWyoming.org



Who is Donor Alliance?

- Non-profit, federally-designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) & accredited Tissue Bank
- Facilitate donation process
- Educate the public
- Adhere to guidelines by regulatory agencies such as CMS and the FDA.



MISSION

Donor Alliance saves lives through organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

VISION

Maximizing all donation opportunities



ILEAP

Integrity
Leadership
Excellence
Accountability
People First

**CORE
VALUES**

What is Ethics?

- “The study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by a person; moral philosophy. The study of how to make good decisions.” - www.thefreedictionary.com
- How we make good decisions.
- How we know a decision is good.



Most Conflicts Involve

- **Time** - Staff Fast and Family Slow
- **Listening/Communication** - Deep Understanding and communication go a long way
- **Systems Issues** - Not just how people are reacting but why.
- **Confusion** - Healthcare is incredibly complex
- **Competing Value Systems** – Conflicts are often less about right/ wrong, but rather reflect different value systems.

Four Principles

1. **Respect for Autonomy:** *What the patient wants, or if they cannot speak for themselves, what they would say if they could. 1956*
2. **Beneficence:** *Do Good – think big picture*
3. **Non-Maleficence:** *Do No Harm (emotional, physical, cultural, spiritual)*
4. **Justice:** *Are we treating this patient like we would treat other patients and are we using resources correctly?*

Uniform Determination of Death Act: 1980

An individual who has sustained either:

Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory function, OR

Irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain, including the brain stem

Is Dead

The Dead Donor Rule

- Patients must be declared dead before there is removal of any vital organ for transplantation
- Result of a workgroup at Harvard
- Necessitated by the advent of critical care units → improved survival and/or organ viability

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act

- The **Uniform Anatomical Gift Act** (UAGA or the Act) was passed in the US in 1968 and has since been revised in 1987 and in 2006.
- The Act sets a regulatory framework for the donation of organs, tissues, and other human body parts in the US. The UAGA helps regulate body donations to science, medicine, and education.



Case Study

- 47y M, Home hospice patient with end stage ALS
- Wanted to be extubated in hospital
- Donor Alliance was contacted by California OPO
- Donor Alliance contacted hospital
- Donor Alliance met patient and wife at their home & completed ppw, expectations, process, questions

Case Study

- Extubation in ICU Room
- Comfort care given per hospital policy
- Kidneys transplanted regionally
- Liver placed for research
- Heart placed for valves

Thank You

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