



Standards Policy: Disposition Policy Section

Organ Procurement Agency Notification

Policy:

When cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic life support (BLS), and other advanced life support (ALS) interventions are withheld or discontinued on scene, EMS will report the death to the appropriate organ procurement organization servicing the county where death occurred in a timely manner. EMS will share information relevant to the donation process with the appropriate organ procurement organization.

Purpose:

To ensure an organ procurement organization is notified of deaths pronounced in the field by EMS in order to:

- Honor the decedent’s registered declaration of eye and/or tissue donation.
- Preserve family’s opportunity to support eye and/or tissue donation.
- Service the public health by facilitating eye and tissue donation.

Procedure:

EMS will notify the appropriate organ procurement organization of deaths pronounced outside of the hospital. Potential donors between ages of newborn – 100 years old will be referred.

Essential information to be provided to the organ procurement organization include:

- Caller name, title, and agency contact information
- Patient demographics
- Last seen alive date/time or time of death
- Circumstances of death (notify organ procurement agency even if medical examiner case)
- Medical interventions and medical history
- Next of kin name and contact information
- Who is taking custody of the decedent’s body (ex: funeral home, hospital, M.E.)
- EMS **SHOULD NOT** discuss eye or tissue donation with next of kin. Coordinators specializing in family support will attempt to contact appropriate family members about organ donation.
- Document all patient care and interactions with the patient’s family, personal physician, medical examiner, law enforcement, and medical control in the EMS electronic patient care report (ePCR).

Contact information for Organ Procurement Organizations:

LifeShare to the Carolinas		LifeNet Health	HonorBridge
1 (800) 932-4483		1 (800) 847-7831	1 (800) 252-2672
Anson	Jackson	Currituck	All other NC counties
Buncombe	Lincoln		
Burke	Macon		
Cabarrus	Madison		
Cherokee	Mecklenburg		
Clay	Polk		
Cleveland	Rutherford		
Gaston	Stanly		
Graham	Swain		
Haywood	Transylvania		
Henderson	Union		