What is an Effective Request?
Evidence-based Best Practices indicate that we can improve the request outcome through the following:

• It is best that the family understands and accepts the grave prognosis before anyone introduces the possibility of donation.
• Separating the conversation of grave prognosis from the donation conversation increases the potential for organ donation and eliminates any conflict of interest.
• A collaborative approach involves Gift of Life Michigan staff and one or more of the following: physician, nurse, social worker, hospital chaplain.
• The donation conversation is always done in a quiet private setting with the patient’s medical decision maker(s).

Gift of Life Michigan staff presence is important in ensuring that families have a resource with the most accurate information to answer their donation questions. Use of the Best Practices, including the effective request process, ensures higher family satisfaction and more lives saved through donation.

Collaboration Between Gift Of Life And Hospital Staff Can Make The Difference!

Gift of Life Michigan is part of the health care team. We are all dedicated to saving lives. Organ donation is another step in end-of-life care for your patient and their family.

800.482.4881
3861 Research Park Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
www.giftoflifemichigan.org

Customer Service
866.500.5801, Ext 1411
**How to Notify Gift Of Life of A Potential Organ Donor**

The most important step is for hospital staff to call Gift of Life Michigan at **800.482.4881**

Staff must refer within 1 hour **EVERY** patient with intact circulation on a ventilator who meets the following clinical triggers or conditions:

- Glasgow Coma Score of 5 or less.
- Neurological injury (GSW, CVA, MVA, Anoxia, etc.).

In addition, for any patient with intact circulation on a ventilator, staff must:

- Call prior to brain death evaluation or deceleration of care.
- Call if there is a withdrawal of support discussion.
- Call if the family approaches you with questions about donation.

Age, medical condition or Medical Examiner involvement do not preclude organ donation. There are **NO absolute rule-outs for organ donation**.

Calling Gift of Life Michigan to evaluate the patient does **NOT** mean we will talk to the family before the hospital explains the grave prognosis, nor will it in any way interfere with patient care. However, national studies have shown that when a Gift of Life Michigan representative can be involved with the grave prognosis conversation, families often are more likely to donate.

**Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD)** requires that Gift of Life Michigan be involved for preliminary evaluation of the patient prior to the health care team discussing ventilator withdrawal/terminal wean with the family.

**What To Expect**

Gift of Life Michigan will assess the patient’s condition and determine if the patient has signed the Michigan Organ Donor Registry indicating a desire to be a donor. **The Uniform Anatomical Gift Law** supports the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and upholds an individual’s autonomy to make a binding decision for or against organ, tissue or eye donation at the time of death. Examples of first person consent include:

- Any donor registration.
- Any document with a symbol or word that suggests organ donation.
- A person who is unable to physically sign a form asking another to make their document of gift.
- A will.

Gift of Life Michigan staff will then either:

- Follow by phone.
- Respond onsite.
- Instruct hospital staff to call at time of death.

Onsite, the Gift of Life Michigan coordinator will huddle with appropriate staff to collaboratively plan the next steps. The donation conversation with the patient’s family or legal representative facilitates a decision for consent or acknowledgement (if the patient had indicated a wish to donate).

**Donation Process After Consent**

- Gift of Life Michigan donation coordinator remains onsite.
- Blood is drawn and sent to lab for tissue typing and cross-matching.
- The UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) list is run to identify recipients.
- If the patient is declared brain dead, patient management becomes the responsibility of the donation coordinator, with assistance from our medical managers, and the hospital health care team.
- The donation coordinator, along with other Gift of Life staff, will coordinate the recovery teams and schedule the operating room.
- After recovery and transplantation, a Gift of Life Michigan hospital development associate will communicate outcomes to the staff.

**Collaboration Saves Lives**

Saving lives through organ donation requires collaboration every step of the way. The process begins with a timely notification to Gift of Life Michigan and continues with a collaborative communication plan to help families with end-of-life decisions.

**The goal: Save more lives through transplantation**

- Organ donation can help the more than 3,000 patients on the organ transplant waiting list in Michigan – and over 100,000 nationally.
- Organ donation honors a patient’s wish to help others, even in death.

Timely notification meets regulations:

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** regulations require hospitals to notify Gift of Life Michigan within 1 hour of any patient meeting “clinical triggers.”

**Gift of Life Michigan** is required by CMS and the **Uniform Anatomical Gift Law (UAGL)** to evaluate a patient for organ donation. By getting involved in a timely manner, we are better able to:

- Determine medical suitability.
- Collaborate with staff.
- Determine first person consent.
- Help hospital staff prepare for the potential donation.
- Support the patient’s family.

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