

INITIAL OPO & ME/C COMMUNICATION & REVIEW

2.1 Initial GOH & ME/C Communication Typically, the hospital will notify the ME/C if a potential organ donor may come under the ME/C's jurisdiction. If this has not happened, the GOH ME/C Liaison will contact the ME/C. If Organ Recovery Protocol Page 3 of 8 the ME/C is informed of a decedent by the hospital, and GOH has not been contacted, the ME/C will contact GOH. The GOH Liaison and the ME/C will establish a communication plan.

2.2 Initial Verbal Review of Injuries & Medical Conditions The GOH Liaison will support the collection and sharing of clinical information with the ME/C or the forensic pathologist, including a description of:

- injuries and/or medical conditions documented to date
- testing reports (CT scans, x-ray reports)
- physician admission history/physical exams)

2.3 Discussion with Decedent's Family or Authorized Representative The determination of eligibility for organ donation is complex and fact specific. The Gift of Hope team is specially trained to analyze the unique circumstances of each potential donor, consult with the ME/C, and conduct detailed discussions with the potential donor's family or legally authorized representative regarding donation. Federal regulations require hospitals to inform Gift of Hope of possible organ donors, and provide Gift of Hope the opportunity to evaluate whether it is appropriate to discuss organ donation with the patient's family members or other authorized representative. If the potential donor previously executed a legally binding anatomical gift, additional authorization from the legal next of kin is not necessary to proceed with donation.

In most circumstances, the ME/C, law enforcement, and state's attorneys should allow OPO team members to manage donor family communications and are respectfully requested to refrain from discussing organ and tissue donation with the potential donor family without prior consultation with and/or the presence of the OPO team.

2.4 Consultation with Law Enforcement If Law Enforcement is present at the hospital, the OPO team or the ME/C will request that Law Enforcement do not discuss potential organ and/or tissue donation with the potential donor's family. Determining whether organ and/or tissue recovery is possible is a complex case-by-case decision made by the ME/C, working in close collaboration with a forensic pathologist, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and OPO team members.

2.5 Consultation with State's Attorneys Illinois Statutes provide that the ME/C has the authority to release transplantable organs and tissue to Gift of Hope. If a State's Attorney has any questions or concerns about the preservation of evidence in conjunction with organ and tissue recovery, Gift of Hope has an expert forensic pathologist available to respond

2.6 Documentation of Denials Gift of Hope will document and denials or restrictions on the recovery of transplantable organs on the Procedure form included as Exhibit A.