Routine Death Notification
Referral Process

All individuals who are pronounced dead, either by cessation of cardiopulmonary function or by brain death criteria, are referred to the STA donor referral line.

800-201-0527

Referrals for potential organ donation will occur in a timely manner, at or near the time of death, regardless of age or medical history.

Timely manner for organ donation referral is defined as:
- At or before pronouncement of brain death.
- When Glasgow coma Scale is \( \geq 4 \).
- Documentation of at least three absent brain stem reflexes and no spontaneous breathing (the patient must be maintained on continuous ventilation).
- Medical suitability for organ donation is determined by STA Recovery Services coordinator, after consultation with transplant physicians.

REFERRAL PROCESS:

NURSE: Call 1-800-201-0527 to report every death.

STAT LINE COORDINATOR: “Thank you for calling the donor information line. A coordinator will be with you momentarily.”

A coordinator will then answer and give you his/her name.

NURSE: “This is (nurses’ name) from (hospital name/unit/floor location.)” Provide call back phone number.

I am calling to refer a death, the patient’s name is ____________.

STAT LINE COORDINATOR: The coordinator will ask you the following:
- Patient’s age, gender and race.
- Ventilator status yes/no
- Date and time of death
- Cause of death
- Whether the patient has a history of HIV, Hepatitis B or C, IVDA, TB or Cancer in past 5 years

STAT LINE COORDINATOR: If patient does not meet criteria for tissue donation: “Thank you for calling to report this death. Unfortunately the patient does not meet criteria for tissue or eye donation. Your confirmation number is ____________

NURSE: Complete Routine Death Notification/Required Request for Organ and Tissue Donation form and place on chart. Document reason for criteria decline and referral number given by STAT Line Coordinator.
OR

STAT LINE COORDINATOR: If patient meets criteria for tissue donation:

"I will have a Tissue/Eye Bank Coordinator call you right back."

OR

If patient meets criteria for organ donation:

"I will have a STA representative call you right back."

Within 15 minutes you should receive a call from either the Tissue Bank Coordinator or the STA representative. If you do not receive a return call PLEASE call 1 800 201 0527 again.

Working with the Tissue/EYE BANK COORDINATOR:

TISSUE BANK COORDINATOR: "This is (coordinator name) with (Tissue/Eye Bank).
I received a page to call (nurses name) regarding a potential tissue donor."

NURSE: "Please be prepared to provide the tissue bank coordinator with the following information:

- Details regarding cause of death and hospital course.
- IVF's administered
- Blood products
- Family information:
  - Are they at the hospital?
  - In no, where can they be reached?
  - Phone number #1 __________
  - Phone number #2 __________
  - If yes:
  - Are they ready to leave the hospital?
  - Please request two phone numbers where they can be reached in the next two hours.

Provide information to the funeral home regarding the fact that this patient may be a potential tissue and eye donor.

IF THE PATIENT MEETS MEDICAL SUITABILITY

The University of Texas Medical Branch ensures, in collaboration with STA, that the family of each potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs, tissues, or eyes. The individual designated by the hospital to initiate the request to the family must be an organ procurement representative or a designated requester.

- A designated requester is an individual who has completed a course offered or approved by STA and designed in conjunction with the tissue and eye bank community in methodology for approaching potential donor families and requesting organ or tissue donation.