
Overview

When a patient who is potentially a donor has been certified dead by brain stem testing and the family has agreed to donation, the priority is then to optimise the function of organs that are potentially transplantable. This competence covers a high level of critical care necessary to prevent deterioration of the donor and their organs while providing support for the family. National Donor Management Guidelines (2004) provide the basis for this care.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHRenDD14

Manage the care of a heart beating donor

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 attend to and refer to the patient at all times in a respectful manner
- P2 explain to or remind the family of a patient who is brain stem dead that the patient will appear to be breathing, will be warm to the touch and have good colour, but is dead
- P3 monitor and support the donor through therapies consistent with the national donor management guidelines (e.g. invasive haemodynamic monitoring, cardiovascular support, respiratory support, endocrine support, temperature support)
- P4 identify how aggressive support needs to be to optimise organ viability
- P5 provide bodily care for the patient (e.g. infection control procedures, patient repositioning, hygiene needs)
- P6 enable family members who wish to do so to participate in bodily care for the patient
- P7 explain to the family the nature of the therapy and care and the reasons for it in terms of the viability of the donation and the benefits that brings
- P8 answer the family's questions and be alert to any emerging change of mind on their agreement to donate
- P9 provide explanation about the whole donation process for newly arrived family members

SFHRenDD14

Manage the care of a heart beating donor

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 anatomy and physiology of the human body
- K2 psychological care skills/loss counselling
- K3 how organs are obtained (e.g. living donation, deceased heart beating and non heart beating donation)
- K4 risks and benefits of transplantation (e.g. enhanced life prospects and lifestyle, side effects of immunosuppression, rejection, psychological issues)
- K5 objections to transplantation and how to probe underlying thinking and how to counter it
- K6 guidance on The Microbiological Safety of Organ and Tissues for Transplantation (NHS Executive 2000)
- K7 the legal frameworks used to protect organ donors, their families and the recipients
- K8 legal, ethical and consent issues for organ and tissue donation for transplantation and research
- K9 issues of maintenance of patient confidentiality in the critical care and donation contexts
- K10 evidence of beliefs about donation and transplantation among informed and uninformed religious and cultural groups (e.g. typical mistaken beliefs that a religion opposes transplantation, religious pronouncements such as Muslim fatwa in favour of transplantation)
- K11 anatomy and physiology of brain stem death
- K12 guidelines for performing brain stem death tests (eg UK Code of Practice, Department of Health 1998)
- K13 recommendations of the ICS Working Group on Organ Donation regarding observation for apnoea
- K14 preconditions to testing for brain stem death
- K15 reversible causes of coma
- K16 legal definitions of death
- K17 clinical management of an intensive care patient
- K18 clinical management of a potential heart beating donor
- K19 how to support an organ donor (e.g. cardiovascular support, endocrine support, respiratory support, renal support, haematological support, temperature support)
- K20 national and local protocols and guidelines for the administration of drugs and fluids in dying patients
- K21 how to break bad news
- K22 how to explain brain stem death
- K23 UKT family care protocol
- K24 psychology of altruistic action
- K25 beliefs about death and dying

SFHRenDD14

Manage the care of a heart beating donor

- K26 evidence on techniques of requesting donation and dealing with objections (e.g. Gortmaker, Verble and Worth)
- K27 roles of other members of the multidisciplinary team
- K28 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language or special needs)
- K29 the importance of establishing rapport and how to do so
- K30 how to ask questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K31 the importance of encouraging individuals to ask questions and how to do so
- K32 the religious beliefs of different cultures
- K33 the effects of different cultures and religions on care management
- K34 the importance of involving individuals in discussions, and how to do so
- K35 how to negotiate effectively with individuals, families and other professionals
- K36 the principles of evidence-based practice, and how to apply them
- K37 how to explain difficult subjects in an emotional context

SFHRenDD14

Manage the care of a heart beating donor

Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

SFHRenDD14

Manage the care of a heart beating donor

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Developed by | Skills for Health |
| Version number | 1 |
| Date approved | June 2010 |
| Indicative review date | June 2012 |
| Validity | Current |
| Status | Original |
| Originating organisation | Skills for Health |
| Original URN | RenDD14 |
| Relevant occupations | Health, Public Services and Care; Healthcare and Related Personal Services |
| Suite | Renal |
| Key words | kidney, kidneys, donation, diabetes, donor, renal, transplant |