



LifeGift Update

— Optimizing Organ Donation —

December 2020

What is considered a missed/late referral?

- A patient is pronounced dead and the call was not made within 60 minutes. If LifeGift declined this patient for organ donation, the time of death still needs to be called in.
- A vented patient that met a GCS < 5, and/or family members are considering withdrawal of care/ extubation, and the call is not made within 60 minutes.

Missed Referrals

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (42 CFR Part 482.5) require that hospitals refer ALL imminent death and deceased patients to their local OPO within 1 hour.
- Patients who meet the criteria for imminent death must be referred within 1 hour of clinical triggers being met.
- All cardiac deaths must be referred within 1 hour to preserve the opportunity for tissue and eye cornea donation.

Clinical Triggers

The following should be called in within 60 minutes;

- GCS < 5, regardless of sedation
- Brain death testing discussed, planned, or initiated
- Any consideration of de-escalation of care, DNR, or withdrawal of any life sustaining therapies
- Family initiates donation conversation
- Patient has no cardiac or respiratory activity

Not Calling in a Referral is a Missed Opportunity to Save or Enhance lives.

**Call
LifeGift at
800-633-6562**