

THE 7 STEPS OF THE DECEASED ORGAN DONATION EYE & TISSUE PROCESS



Donor Registration

1

Donation often begins with a person registering their donation decision. Signing up is the first step to saving lives.



Lifesaving Efforts

2

Whether in a hospital or at the scene of an accident, emergency medical personnel immediately begin lifesaving procedures. Every effort is made to save the patient's life. The patient is put on mechanical support and medically evaluated.



Patient Care

3

Once doctors determine a patient will not survive, the hospital refers the patient to Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA). STA then determines if the patient is a potential organ and tissue donor.



Donation Evaluation

4

STA works with the hospital staff to evaluate whether donation may be an option. If the person has joined the state registry, this serves as legal authorization for donation. If not, then STA will ask the patient's legal next of kin for authorization.



Family Discussion

5

Once the patient is pronounced brain dead or the family decides to discontinue ventilator support, STA talks with the patient's legal next of kin to gain authorization and to provide compassionate support through the process.



Donation Surgery

6

A list of thoroughly matched recipients is provided from a national database. The deceased donor's organs are maintained mechanically until the surgical team recovers the organs first and then tissues. STA arranges transportation of the organs to transplant hospitals of the intended recipients.



Ongoing Care

7

STA provides donor families with ongoing care, including recognition of how many lives their loved one saved, as well as donation and grief support materials. They may also provide guidance for donor families and recipients to correspond and eventually meet, when possible.