Bridging the Gap from Traumatic Brain Injury to Organ Recovery
A Gap Analysis to Optimize Care for the Potential Organ Donor

Use the following scales to evaluate how knowledgeable your unit colleagues are about identifying potential organ donors and preserving the option for donation if the family chooses to consent to organ recovery.

1. How frequently does your unit identify potential organ donors and implement a system-specific plan of care to preserve physiological stability for organ recovery?

| Never | Always |

Need help getting there?
- Evaluate the data available regarding frequency of identifying potential donors on your unit.
- Discuss how current practice may/may not support identification and support of potential donors.
- Collaborate with providers to identify gaps in plans of care that could inform the course of action with potential organ donors.
- Engage the interprofessional team in managing this patient population.

Resources:
- Tools and Tactics
- Timeline of Events: Traumatic Brain Injury to Organ Recovery
- Glasgow Coma Scale
- Guidelines for Apnea Testing as Part of Brain Death Determination
- AACN webinar: Saving a Life: Caring for the Potential Organ Donor
2. How frequently do you and your unit colleagues initiate referrals to an organ procurement organization (OPO) when caring for patients that will most likely experience a noncardiac death?

| Never | Always |

Need help getting there?
- Evaluate the data regarding the frequency of referral to the OPO; if possible, collect data on timing of referrals.
- Work with the OPO representatives/educators to develop staff and interprofessional education on the donation process.
- Determine any psychosocial or ethical concerns that may exist in staff members regarding organ donation.
  - Include the ethics service and/or social workers in the discussion of concerns.
  - Invite patient families who have participated in organ donation to talk with staff.

Resources:
- Tools and Tactics
- Timeline of Events: Traumatic Brain Injury to Organ Recovery
- AACN webinar: Saving a Life: Caring for the Potential Organ Donor
3. Does your unit use standard handoff and communication tools that identify the needs of all stakeholders, including family members, when the plan of care changes to mechanism-based supportive care for patients who are potential organ donors?

Never Always

Need help getting there?

- Consider the points where care is handed off from one person (nurse, provider, interprofessional team members) to another when communication about goals of care needs to happen.
- Consider developing a standard method of communicating care goals to family members, especially when the patient is a potential organ donor.
- Identify the roles of all stakeholders in the communication process with families.
- Institute a mechanism for frequent huddles with stakeholders to clarify care plans and progress toward goals. Include family as members of the team during huddles.
- Include social work, spiritual care providers, and other supportive services to help clarify communication and support needs of family members.

Resources:

- Tools and Tactics
- Timeline of Events: Traumatic Brain Injury to Organ Recovery
- AACN webinar: Saving a Life: Caring for the Potential Organ Donor