Organ and Tissue Donation

Who is a potential organ donor?
Every patient on a vent with Glasgow Coma Score of 5 or less, or anyone evaluated for brain death, terminal wean or change in resuscitation status.

Who is a potential tissue donor?
Every patient who dies is a potential tissue donor.

Recoverable tissues include skin, bone, corneas, tendons, heart valves and saphenous veins.

What laws do I need to know?
Michigan law protects the individual’s right to decide what happens to their organs and tissue after death.

Hospital must keep the patient stable until Gift of Life can evaluate and approach the family if medically suitable.

The medical examiner must collaborate with Gift of Life so families can donate.

Who calls Gift of Life?
Anyone from the healthcare team with access to the medical record can call.

Why is it important to call?
It’s required by CMS, Joint Commission, HFAP and hospital policy.

It preserves donation options by allowing time to determine medical suitability, donor designation status, collaborative plan of care and approach.

Who talks to the patient’s family about donation?
Gift of Life, in collaboration with the healthcare team.

Can I talk to the family about donation?
No. Regulatory agencies require anyone who talks with families to first receive special training. Oakwood’s policy is that Gift of Life is the official designated requestor.

What if the family brings up donation?
Tell them donation might be an option and that you will call Gift of Life.

How can I become a donor?
Go to giftoflifemichigan.org and click on “become a donor.” It only takes 30 seconds and you might save a life someday.