Comatose Child
(37 weeks gestational age to 18 years of age)

Does Neurologic Examination Satisfy Clinical Criteria For Brain Death?

A. Physiologic parameters have been normalized:
   1. Normothermic: Core Temp. > 35°C (95°F)
   2. Normotensive for age without volume depletion
B. Coma: No purposeful response to external stimuli (exclude spinal reflexes)
C. Examination reveals absent brainstem reflexes: Pupillary, corneal, vestibuloocular (Caloric), gag.
D. Apnea: No Spontaneous respirations with a measured pCO2 ≥ 60 mmHg or ≥ 20 mm Hg above the baseline PaCO2

Patient Can Be Declared Brain Dead (by age-related observation periods*)

A. Newborn 37 weeks gestation to 30 days: Examinations 24 hours apart remain unchanged with persistence of coma, absent brainstem reflexes and apnea. Ancillary testing with EEG or CBF studies should be considered if there is any concern about the validity of the examination.
B. 31 days to 18 years: Examinations 12 hours apart remain unchanged. Ancillary testing with EEG or CBF studies should be considered if there is any concern about the validity of the examination.

*Ancillary studies (EEG & CBF) are not required but can be used when (i) components of the examination or apnea testing cannot be safely completed; (ii) there is uncertainty about the examination; (iii) if a medication effect may interfere with evaluation or (iv) to reduce the observation period.