Clinical Triggers

Federal Regulations stipulate that every family of every suitable patient should be given the opportunity to make a decision with regards to donation. (42 CFR Part 482)


CMS (42 C.F.R. § 482.45) recommends the following triggers be adopted by hospitals for referring patients for evaluation to their local OPO (in this case OneLegacy).

Patients requiring ventilatory support with one or more of the following criteria:

- Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) of 5 or less
- one or more loss of brain stem reflexes:
  - pupils fixed and dilated
  - no cough
  - no gag
  - no spontaneous respirations
  - no purposeful movement in response to painful stimuli
- beginning discussions of withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments

Call immediately if

- any clinical or other testing is being done to assess for brain death.

The Huddle and Effective Requestor

The Huddle — is an integral part of the process and signifies a care-planning meeting involving the healthcare team and a member of OneLegacy with the goals

- to identify the right time and the right person for each family to effectively approach the subject of donation, i.e. the effective requestor.
- to find facts e.g. first person authorization, family dynamics, legal next of kin, designated decision-maker, spiritual & cultural needs of family, etc.

The huddle should occur

- on every single potential donor case— PRIOR to any discussion of donation with patient’s family.

Suggested Language:

• “We will have someone specialized in helping families going through these situations come to speak with you.”
• “We will have someone specialized in End-of-Life decisions come to speak to you to help you through the next steps.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: 24-Hr Referral of all Imminent Brain Death and Cardiac Deaths should be made to 1-800-338-6112