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)

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

Donation has “a beneficial effect on the bereavement process” and can provide the grieving family with a sense of purpose and comfort.


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).

- Clinical triggers for referring a patient to OneLegacy
- The Huddle and Effective Requestor Process

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

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.

Pointers:
- Please do not bring up donation until OneLegacy has been involved and the huddle has occurred
- CMS requires that every family be given an opportunity to make a decision about donation if the patient is suitable. (42 CFR Part 482)

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.”