

# EDUCATION CORNER



## The Power of Preparation: The Huddle Process

The “Huddle,” a powerful tool in creating an effective donation process and optimal outcomes, is used successfully by many Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and hospitals around the country.

### Defining the Huddle

Sometimes huddles are utilized several times during the donation process. Below is a recommended strategy for successful huddles\* that defines the objective of each huddle and a method for facilitating them efficiently by answering “When”, “Who”, “What”?

**Phase I: Donation Assessment Huddle**

**Objective:** To establish a clear plan of OPO involvement and ensure that the hospital team is both heard and informed.

**Phase II: Family Support Huddle**

**Objective:** To assist in the preparation of the approach.

**Phase III: Family Outcome Huddle**

**Objective:** To ensure that the hospital care team and OPO have a clear understanding of the family discussion outcome and to establish next steps in the donation process.

*Taken from a webinar presentation by T. Haydel, RN, CPTC and S.P. Harrison from the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA). \*We thank LOPA for sharing their Huddle process, practices and guidance document.*

*The webinar presentation is available through the Alliance Academy:*

<https://organdonationalalliance.org/alliance-academy/>

*Full huddle process guidance document and other family care resources available in the organ donation toolbox:*

<http://organdonationalalliance.org/organ-donation-toolbox/>

*This inservice is also available on The Alliance blog: <http://organdonationalalliance.org/education-corner-huddle-process/>*

*A special thanks to Elizabeth Spencer from Elizabeth Katherine Communications LLC for her contributions to this issue.*

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
<b>When</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial Referral</li> <li>2. Rounding on-site for referral follow-up</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to MD’s conversation with the family regarding prognosis</li> <li>2. After MD’s conversation with the family regarding prognosis</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After family decision for donation occurs</li> </ol>
<b>Who</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nurse</li> <li>2. Attending MD</li> <li>3. Consulting MDs</li> <li>4. Unit Leadership</li> <li>5. Supportive Staff</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nurse</li> <li>2. MD</li> <li>3. Support Staff</li> <li>4. Unit Leadership</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nurse</li> <li>2. MD</li> <li>3. Supportive Staff</li> <li>4. Unit Leadership</li> </ol>
<b>What</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hospital Care Plan</li> <li>2. Donation Opportunities: Plan for following referral</li> <li>3. Bridging Statements</li> <li>4. CBIGs (Pre-Donor Support)</li> </ol>	<p>Prior to MD Conversation with Family:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify who will be speaking with the family regarding the prognosis</li> <li>2. Identify the LNOK and decision maker</li> <li>3. Determine the location where the donation conversation will occur</li> <li>4. Remind not to mention donation during the prognosis discussion</li> <li>5. Provide bridging statements/transitioning language</li> <li>6. Discuss Family Advocate introductions</li> </ol> <p>After MD Conversation with family:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of the family’s understanding after the prognosis conversation</li> <li>2. Reminder to notify the coroner of time of death for brain dead patients</li> <li>3. Starting Early Integration/Introduction to family</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outcome of donation discussion with the family                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Authorization obtained:                                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Restrictions per family</li> <li>II. Family updates</li> <li>III. Nurse/Staff updates</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Authorization not obtained:                                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Nurse</li> <li>II. MD – family wishes</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>