



## Standards Policy: Disposition Policy Section

# Organ Procurement Agency Notification

### Policy:

When cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic life support (BLS), and advanced life support (ALS) interventions are withheld or discontinued on scene, EMS will report the death to the appropriate organ procurement organization (OPO) in the county where death occurred in a timely manner (see chart below). EMS will share pertinent information related to the donation process with the appropriate OPO.

### Purpose:

To ensure an OPO is notified of deaths pronounced in the field by EMS in order to:

- Honor the decedent's registered declaration of eye and/or tissue donation.
- Preserve family's opportunity to support eye and/or tissue donation.
- Service the public health by facilitating eye and tissue donation.

### Procedure:

EMS will notify the appropriate OPO of deaths pronounced in the field by an EMS provider (see chart below). Potential donors for referral include all decedents between the ages of newborn to 100 years old.

#### Essential information to be provided to the OPO includes:

- EMS provider's name, title, EMS agency, and contact information
- Patient demographics (name, DOB, race, height, and weight)
- Decedents last known or seen alive date/ time and EMS time of death pronouncement
- Circumstances of death (notify OPO even if Medical Examiner is or will be involved)
- Medical interventions performed and past medical history of the decedent
- Next of kin name and contact information
- Who is taking custody of the decedent's body (eg. LEO, ME, funeral home, hospital, morgue, etc.)
- EMS **SHOULD NOT** discuss eye and/ or tissue donation with next of kin. OPO coordinators specializing in family bereavement support will attempt to contact appropriate next of kin to offer opportunities for tissue and/ or eye donation
- Document all patient care and interactions with the patient's family, personal physician, medical examiner, law enforcement, and medical control in the EMS electronic patient care report (ePCR).

#### Contact information for Organ Procurement Organizations:

LifeShare Carolinas		LifeNet Health	HonorBridge
1 (800) 932-4483		1 (800) 847-7831	1 (800) 252-2672
Anson	Jackson	Currituck	All other NC Counties
Buncombe	Lincoln		
Burke	Macon		
Cabarrus	Madison		
Cherokee	Mecklenburg		
Clay	Polk		
Cleveland	Rutherford		
Gaston	Stanly		
Graham	Swain		
Haywood	Transylvania		
Henderson	Union		