**Purpose:**

To define the process for organ and tissue donation.

**Policy:**

1. The hospital has contracted with the following agencies for the organ donation program:

Organs: Life Center Northwest Donor Network 888-266-4466

Eye: Montana Eye Bank

Tissue: Northwest Tissue Bank 888-266-4466

1. Patients’ and/or families wishes regarding organ and tissue donation will be honored whenever possible. Consent for organ/tissue donation will be obtained in accord with the informed consent policy.
2. All patients, including newborns, with imminent brain death or cessation of cardiac function should be referred to the organ procurement agency to determine organ/tissue eligibility.
3. Appropriate screening to determine suitability of any anatomical gift will be done prior to approaching the family to inform them about organ donation options.
4. Medical therapy to maintain organ viability will not be initiated prior to obtaining consent from the family.
5. Brain death is a prerequisite for organ/tissue donation.
6. Cessation of respiration and heartbeat is the prerequisite for tissue donation.

**Procedures:**

1. Family approach/consent
   1. After death and prior to family approach, an RN contacts the organ procurement agency to screen for suitability of donation.
   2. If suitable for donation, the family is approached.
      1. Organ/ tissue by organ procurement staff on the telephone or by facility staff
      2. Eye by facility staff
2. Coordination of organ/tissue donation
   1. Beating heart organ donors – organ procurement agency staff facilitates donor management that may include transfer to another facility.
   2. Non-beating heart donors – RN or Director of Nursing facilitates recovery preparation according to organ donation manual and instructions from organ procurement agency.
   3. In cases where the coroner takes jurisdiction, the coroner and the organ procurement agency will coordinate donations.
3. Care of the organ/tissue donor
   1. If beating heart donor, then the patient’s perfusion is maintained in the critical care unit prior to organ procurement.
   2. If eye donor then,
      1. Irrigate eyes with normal saline solution.
      2. Close eyes (avoid excess tape)
      3. Cover the closed eyes with saline-soaked gauze.
      4. Elevation the head 30 degrees.
      5. If the eyes are not to be removed within 1 hour, refrigerate the body as soon as possible. If bone, skin or other tissue donor, then place the body in refrigerated morgue as soon as possible ( at least within 4 hours of expiration). If refrigeration is unavailable, alert organ procurement agency.
4. Documentation
   1. Physician documents pronouncement of death.
   2. RN completes the postmortem checklist.
   3. Organ procurement agency documents recovery of organ/tissue in the medical record.
5. Compliance responsibilities
   1. Organ procurement agency is responsible to:
      1. Train facility staff in family request
      2. Provide facility with organ donation manual and materials.