

NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATIONS

NUMBER: NN-LD-07

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ORIGINAL DATE: 06/08/89

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 08/08/90, 08/28/91, 07/05/95, 11/17/98, 12/20/01, 01/05/06,
2/19/09, 11/18/10, 10/17/13

APPROVAL: Cody L. Phinney Agency Director

I. PURPOSE

To comply with state and federal requirements for participation in organ donation programs and to provide guidelines for staff.

II. POLICY

NNAMHS does not ask for organ or tissue donations but supports the right of consumers and family members to receive information when requested. This facility does not have adequate medical or surgical capabilities for removal, preservation, storage, or transport of tissues or organs. All such cases occurring at NNAMHS will be promptly transferred to a local facility equipped to provide those services.

III. REFERENCE

1. Nevada Revised Statutes 451.500 to 451.590 Anatomical Gifts (Uniform Act).

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Designated Organization

1. Sierra Eye and Tissue Donor Services (SETDS) is the designated eye and tissue bank providing services.

B. Responsibilities In the Event of Consumer Death

1. In the event of an unexpected death at NNAMHS, hospital staff will make a referral to SETDS for evaluation of medical suitability of tissues. Referral will be made to the Donor Hot line at 1-800-762-8819.
2. This referral will be documented in the progress notes.
3. Information regarding the consumer's admission, history and current condition will be shared with the referral organization.
4. SETDS will determine medical suitability. Donation should not be mentioned to the family prior to the determination of suitability.
5. Informed consent is the responsibility of the referral organization. These consents may be obtained by telephone or recording. Family may give verbal consent to the physician or hospital staff prior to the arrival of referral organization personnel. Formal consent remains the responsibility of the referral organization.
6. The donor family will incur no additional expense once the consent for donation has been given.
7. Tissue recovery may be done at the coroner's facility, at the mortuary, or at another location arranged by NNAMHS and SETDS.
8. A representative from the referred organization (SETDS) will develop a plan for family approach.

9. If a family member requests information, do not avoid the discussion. Seek assistance from the referral organization. Be sensitive to the families need to have information and comfort.

C. Oversight and Management

1. The Medical Director or designee will act as the committee to oversee organ and tissue donations procedures.
2. The staff medical physician will act as the liaison between the committee and the referral agencies.
3. Nursing supervisors are educated regarding organ and tissue donation issues including, but not limited to, the procedures included here.

D. Coroner Involvement

1. Within Washoe County, the Coroner's Office has ultimate authority in issues surrounding death while a consumer is in a public institution. Nothing shall be done to alter the appearance of a body until inspected by the Coroner and the records reviewed.
 - a. The Coroner must approve organ or tissue donation from deaths within their jurisdiction.
 - b. The Coroner may demand autopsies regardless of wishes of family, physician, etc.
 - c. The Coroner may supersede all others in determining disposition of remains.