NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATIONS

NUMBER: NN-LD-07

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

APPROVAL: Rosalyne Reynolds {s} Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policies and procedures to comply with NRS 451.500 to 451.590 (Anatomical Gifts) and the Public Law 99509, Section 931; in order to provide organs and tissues for transplantation, to honor the wishes of the deceased; and to cooperate with the wishes of the legal next-of-kin of the deceased; the following policy and procedure will provide implementation information for anatomical donation.
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II. POLICY

Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) supports the right of consumers and family members to receive information about organ and tissue donation so that they make informed end-of-life decisions. When requested, information will be provided. People admitted and treated at NNAMHS have serious mental disorders that may impair their ability to make decisions regarding organ and tissue donation.

Recognizing that establishing routine procedures to address the subject of anatomical donation has the potential to adversely impact the psychiatric condition of some consumers, NNAMHS does not advocate any organ or tissue donation program. We do support the wishes of consumers and family who have made competent decisions to make anatomical donations. NNAMHS first priority is to provide high quality care to the extent of our capabilities. This facility does not have adequate medical or surgical capabilities to render the necessary systems support 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. NNAMHS Policy and Procedure NN-IM-MR-07 "Consumer Transfers and Documentation (COBRA)"
2. NNAMHS Policy and Procedure NN-RI-06, "Emergency Medical Procedures"
3. NNAMHS Policy and Procedure NN-LD-11, "Sentinel Events"

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 the Sierra Eye and Tissue Donor Services (SETDS) for evaluation of medical suitability of tissues. Referral will be made to the donor 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. NNAMHS staff is not to approach family members about donations unless they have been trained as a "designated requestor."
9. A representative from the referred organization (SETDS) will develop a plan for family approach.
10. 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 Senior Physician 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. Hospital staff will be routinely 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.