



Policy Name EYE DONATION	Policy Number: 0177
	Effective Date: April 1, 2009
Approved By: Management Committee	Date Revised: September 19, 2012
Classification: Delivery of Care to Residents and Families	Page No: Page 1 of 3

POLICY

Procedures when a Resident and/or family is approached for eye donation.

PROCEDURE

Prior to Death

1. Resident and/or family may be approached for eye donation during the admission assessment by the Registered Nurse (RN), when it is appropriate. If not, Social Worker is to be asked for a referral for follow-up.
2. If a contraindication is evident, the eyes cannot be donated. This should be documented if the Resident and/ or family are not approached for this reason. Ensure that the Resident does not have the following absolute contraindications:
 - a. Age > 80 years
 - b. Hepatitis B or C positive
 - c. HIV positive
 - d. HTLV I or II positive
 - e. Bacteremia, Fungemia, Viremia
 - f. Sepsis or Septic Shock: positive blood cultures with organ failure < 7days before death
 - g. Active Tuberculosis
 - h. Active Endocarditis
 - i. Active Encephalitis or Meningitis
 - j. Antibiotic Resistant Organisms:VRE, MRSA infection/colonization
 - k. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
 - l. IV drug user (in last 5 years)
3. Speak with Medical Examiner to ask whether there are restrictions if a Medical Examiner autopsy is involved.
4. If the Resident and/ or family agrees to the eye donation, the Tissue and/or Organ Donation Consent is to be obtained only by the Agapé employee who received the formal education from Southern Alberta Organ and Tissue Donation Program (SAOTDP). If the educated employee is not available, contact a Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP and get him/her to obtain the consent from the Resident on the phone.



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5. The person giving consent can be the Resident him/herself, or if the Resident is unable, the consenter can be the legal next of kin. When the consenter is the legal next of kin, the consent is to be obtained **only after** the Resident's death. The Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP is to obtain consent from the next of kin on the phone in this case. In both cases, the legal next of kin should be notified in advance. The person obtaining consent is to ask if the next of kin would like a follow up phone call or letter from Donor Coordinator at SAOTD, and to make sure to obtain the contact information. The person obtaining consent also is to notify the next to kin that the medical/social history will be done with him/her after the Resident's death, only if the eyes are found to be suitable for transplantation.
6. The person who signs as the Next of Kin or the Person Obtaining Consent cannot sign as the Witness. The Agapé Hospice employee **is allowed** to sign the consent as the witness.
7. If the Resident wishes to donate but he/she has one of the following contraindications, transplant is not possible. Then, options of scientific research or medical education can be offered.
 - a. Leukemia
 - b. Cancer in the eyes
 - c. Pre-existing corneal eye
 - d. Disease or damage to the cornea
 - e. Multiple Sclerosis
 - f. Dementia, Alzheimer's,
 - g. Parkinson's disease
 - h. ALS
8. If the Resident is identified to be able to donate other tissues such as skin, bone, tendon or heart valve, and the Resident wishes to donate his /her tissue, Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP to be contacted.

After death

1. The Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP needs to be called at time of death. The Donor Coordinator will obtain telephone consent from the next of kin if it was not obtained from the Resident.
 - a. During office hours, (M-F 0800-1615 hours) SAOTDP Donor Coordinator at **403-944-8700**
 - b. After office hours, On-call SAOTDP Donor Coordinator (FMC switchboard) at **403-944-1110**

Lion's Eye Bank should not be called.



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2. If Resident is a Medical Examiner case, the Medical Examiner needs to be contacted **first** followed by Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP. If family has requested an autopsy, Vital Statistics (the Morgue) needs to be contacted **after** Donor Coordinator at SAOTDP has been contacted.
3. Ensure the care of eye donor: 1) close eye lids 2) apply saline soaked gauze 3) elevate the head of the bed.
4. Inform the funeral home of death when the Lion's Eye Bank technician completes the enucleation. (It takes at least 30 minutes for the process).
5. The medical chart does not need to be copied by Agapé Hospice employee. The Lion's Eye Bank technician will look through the Resident's chart and ask employee questions if needed.

ATTACHMENT

[Alberta Health Services – Tissue and/or Organ Donation Consent](#)

CROSS REFERENCE

[Policy # 0145 Death Care and Transport of Body](#)

[Policy # 0175 Autopsy Requested by Family](#)

[Policy # 0176 Autopsy Required by Law, Physician, or Requested by WCB](#)