

Organ and Tissue Donation after Assisted Dying

Information for transplant services and donor surgical teams

Some staff may conscientiously object to Assisted Dying (AD). Involvement is optional and ODNZ respects personal choice.

For Transplant Services

Assisted Dying Donation (ADD) should proceed similarly to current processes other than a referral which may occur weeks prior to the donation. Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) will have discussions to assess medical suitability. We will generate a referral including routine investigations. The donor will determine their date of death and may revise it at any time.

We will contact donor surgical teams once organs are accepted by transplant services and logistics confirmed.

Donor Surgical Teams

Assisted dying donation (ADD) follows a modified DCD pathway. Important aspects to consider include:

- The location of AD will be determined by ODNZ in collaboration with the hospital
- Staff involved in the donation are required to attend the planning meeting
- AD medications will be administered intravenously by the attending medical practitioner (AMP)
- Warm ischaemic time will begin at the end of the last medication administration or once the SBP < 50mmHg
- Death will be determined by the AMP
- Theatre will be closed to observers during donation surgery
- ODNZ endeavours to accommodate donor or whānau requests

We recognise ADD carries an additional emotional impact. Donor surgical and transplant team clinicians are invited to participate in a debrief with ODNZ.

www.donor.co.nz

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