

Organ and Tissue Donation after Assisted Dying

Information for hospital staff

This information will guide you through the process of supporting the wishes of a person enrolled in the Assisted Dying (AD) pathway who has made the decision to be an organ donor.

Some staff may conscientiously object to AD, donation or both. Involvement in AD and donation is optional and ODNZ respects personal choice.

Initial steps

Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) ensures a member of the executive team has endorsed an inpatient admission for the purpose of Assisted Dying Donation (ADD).

A suitable, quiet and private location for admission needs to be identified. Ideally this would be less than five minutes away from the Operating Theatre where the donation surgery will be performed.

Responsibilities of the Attending Medical Practitioner (AMP)

The AMP is the healthcare professional responsible for facilitating the AD process. This includes supporting the person and their whānau with whom an established relationship exists.

The responsibilities of the AMP include:

- Compliance with AD legislation
- Participation in the pre-donation planning meeting
- Insertion of an intravenous cannula
- Prescribing, ordering, and administration of AD medications
- Declaration and documentation of death

Responsibilities of Organ Donation New Zealand

ODNZ coordinates the process from assessment for donation and admission to hospital, to completion of the donation surgery. This includes:

- Supporting the person, whānau and AMP throughout this process
- Ensuring accurate and timely communication with all involved parties
- Obtaining written consent to authorise organ donation
- Compiling a referral for the purpose of organ donation
- Sharing the referral with transplant services so they can make a timely decision for acceptance of organs
- Engaging with the hospital staff to help facilitate logistics, including the admission process and equipment needed
- Liaising with operating theatre staff to facilitate the donation surgery

Organ and Tissue Donation after Assisted Dying

Information for hospital staff

- Coordinate the pre-donation planning meeting with all healthcare professionals who will be involved in the AD and donation (to ensure clarity of roles and order of events)
- Coordinate the donation surgery
- Aftercare of the person including wash, handprints, hairlocks and specific requests
- Liaise with hospital bereavement services to ensure place of death and theatre are blessed
- Handover to appropriate hospital staff regarding transfer to mortuary or direct release to funeral services

Responsibilities of hospital staff

Hospital staff involvement will depend on the venue selected and duration of the person's admission.

The hospital will assist with:

- Admission, discharge documents and labels
- Equipment i.e. swipe access cards, hospital bed, monitoring equipment
- Operating theatre booking
- 2 – 3 circulating nurses to support the donation surgical team
- Ice for packaging of organs
- Attendance at the pre-donation planning meeting
- Ensuring the route between the location of the AD and operating theatre is clear and accessible
- Transfer of the person to operating theatre

Debrief

We recognise ADD carries an additional emotional impact. We encourage the hospital to initiate debriefs and support for the staff. All hospital clinical staff involved are encouraged to participate in a debrief with ODNZ.

www.donor.co.nz
contactus@donor.co.nz