# Standardized Organ Donation Procedure

## In Reference to Article 204.1 (LSSSS)

### Patient with a prognosis of impending death

**1. Identification**

The patient satisfies the criteria for being a potential organ donor:
- A person of any age
- Has experienced a severe neurological insult (post-resuscitation, cerebral anoxia, CVA, cerebral haemorrhage, encephalopathy, traumatic brain injury, Glasgow score < 5 ...)
- Requires mechanical ventilation

Depending on the situation, a decision is made to continue or stop active medical treatment.

**2. Referral**

Contact Transplant Québec to verify the potential donor’s eligibility:
- 1 888 366-7338, option 1

**3. Communication of Diagnosis / Prognosis**

Announce and explain the poor and irreversible prognosis.

Discuss withdrawing life-sustaining therapies (WLST).

Provide the time necessary to absorb the information.

Ensure that the family understands the prognosis.

Be prepared to repeat the information as often as needed.

Provide a quiet and private space.

Be empathic and attentive to the family’s needs.

Ensure that family support personnel are present.

Use of visual aids (i.e. brain scan).

**4. Offer / Team Approach**

Present the option of organ and tissue donation.

Ask the family to respond based on the known expressed wishes of the patient as indicated by:
- The inscription(s) in the RAMQ and the Chambre des notaires du Québec registries
- The signature on the back of the health insurance card
- A prior verbal consent

Or if the wishes are not known, have the family decide by considering the person’s values and beliefs.

Offer to involve the Transplant Québec coordinator to answer any questions the family might have.

Allow sufficient time for a period of reflection.

Be attentive to the family’s needs, answer questions and address concerns.

Ascertain the family’s decision.

Communicate the family’s decision to Transplant Québec.

Consent

Refusal

- Continue to provide family support
- End-of-life care

**5. Evaluation, Eligibility and Procurement**

Provide all available information concerning the donor to the Transplant Québec coordinator.

Begin the donor evaluation and eligibility phase in collaboration with the medical team and the Transplant Québec coordinator.

**NDD**

- Diagnosis of neurological determination of death completed by 2 physicians
- Transfer to the operating room

**DCD**

- Transfer to the operating room
- WLST and end-of-life care
- Diagnosis of death by cardiocirculatory criteria completed by 2 physicians

*For hospitals that do not carry out procurements: Depending on the situation, the donor will be transferred to a procurement center as soon as possible.

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Reference tools: [www.transplantquebec.ca](http://www.transplantquebec.ca) and the following documents (available upon request at info@transplantquebec.ca): Trousse Pensez don (can be found in the intensive care units and the emergency departments) and pocket size donor guideline card.