



## Steps to Eye Donation

1. Call the Donor Referral Line within 1 hour of death. This time line is vital as the **eyes must be retrieved within 8 hours**. Eligible age for eye donation is **2 years- 75 years**.

**Donor Referral Line: 1-877-366-6722**  
**Within 1 hour**

The Human Tissue Gift Act is a Provincial Law that states:  
All deaths 75 years or younger **must** be reported, by law, to the Donor Referral line.

2. Provide the following information to the donor referral line:

\* **Your facility and unit; phone number and local**

Patient Age

Time of Death

Cause of Death

Medical History of: Infectious Disease  
CNS disorders eg. M.S., Parkinson's  
Blood borne cancers

If Available: WBC count, Blood Cultures  
Temperature

**\*Record the Reference Number in the patient's chart.**

3. If the patient has been determined to be a suitable donor the family should be approached and given the choice to donate their loved one's eyes. Families often derive a great sense of comfort by making this gift. The '**Gift of Sight**' pamphlet is a useful tool when approaching the family.

Available in English, Punjabi, Chinese & Farsi at:

<http://eyebankofbc.com/hospital.html>

4. **Obtain written (If Next of Kin Present) or verbal consent** from the next of kin using the Provincial '**Consent for Donation of Organs/Tissues**' form.

Nursing staff, clergy, social workers or doctors may obtain and witness consent.

<http://www.transplant.bc.ca/documents/consent-donation-organs-and-tissues>

**Request for Consent (for Eye Donation) Video** (9 minutes)

On YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhXGVoeY8LE>

(If there is not anyone comfortable approaching the family the eye bank staff can do so over the phone and obtain verbal consent.)

5. Once consent is obtained **Care of the Eyes** is as follows:

1. Close the eyes and instill 4-5 gts of either; Normal Saline, Balanced Salt Solution, Artificial Tears, or Optimyxin; q 1 hour

Once the family has said their goodbyes:

2. Tape the eyes shut with paper tape.

3. Apply a bag filled with ice and water