

Speaking with Patients and Families about Eye Donation

1. If a family member asks;

“What comes next?” or “What do we do next?”

You could answer with;

- i. “Do you know if your ‘Loved One’ has any wishes about donation?” or
- ii. “Have you ever talked about eye donation?”

2. After calling the Donor Referral Line to confirm the patient is eligible;

“You may not be aware that you the opportunity to consider eye donation. Your loved one’s gift could provide sight to up two people, and provide up to a total of 8 people with transplants. Is this something you would like some information about?”

Or

“Have you ever heard about /talked about eye donation?”

If ‘NO’ – “Would you like some information about it? Your ‘Loved One’ has the have the opportunity to provide sight to up to two people through their gift.”

Tips:

- It is helpful to let families know that their loved one is eligible for eye donation. Eg. “Your ‘Love one’ is a good candidate and may provide sight to up to two people.”

Or

Watch our video ‘Request for Consent for Eye Donation’

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

Common Questions & Answers

1. Is the whole eye removed?
 - a. Yes. This allows for both the corneas and sclera to be used for transplant. Up to 8 people may benefit from one person’s gift.
2. What does the person look like afterwards?
 - a. They are restored so that they will look like they are sleeping. The family may have a viewing or open casket service.
 - b. A conformer, like a hard contact lens, is place under the eye lids giving the eye lids a natural shape, just like the person is sleeping.