

## 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 **75 years and under**.

**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.  
**\*Even if the coroner is notified you must call\***

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.ca/resources/>
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, spiritual care, social workers or physicians may obtain and witness consent.  
<http://eyebankofbc.ca/resources/>  
**Request for Consent for Eye Donation Video** (9 minutes)  
<http://eyebankofbc.ca/resources/>  
(If there is not anyone who is comfortable approaching the family the eye bank staff can do so, over the phone, and obtain verbal consent.)  
**Eye Bank Fax # 604-875-5316**
5. **Care of the Eyes** is as follows:
  1. Close the eyes and instill 4-5 gtts 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 crushed ice and water