

Steps to Eye Donation

1. Call the Donor Referral Line immediately in the event of the death, or impending death, of a patient age 75 years and younger.

This time line is vital as the eyes must be retrieved within 8 hours from the time of death.

Donor Referral Line: 1-877-366-6722

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, 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 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/>

Note: If no one is comfortable, or available, to approach the family the eye bank staff can do so.

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; Sterile Normal Saline, Balanced Salt Solution, Artificial Tears, or Optimyxin; q 1 hour

Once the family has said their goodbyes:

2. Tape the eyes closed with paper tape.

3. Apply a bag filled with crushed ice and water