

Speaking with Patients and Families about Eye Donation

Script suggestions:

Scenario #1:

Family Member asks: What comes next? or What do we do next?

Nurse: “Do you know if your ‘*Loved One*’ has any wishes about donation?” or
“Have you ever talked about eye donation?”

Scenario #2:

Prior to approaching a patient or family please call the Donor Referral Line to confirm the patient is eligible.

Nurse: You may not be aware that you the opportunity to consider eye donation. Your loved one’s gift could provide up to a total of 10 people with transplants. Is this something you would like some information about?”

Resources:

‘Request for Consent for Eye Donation’ video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhXGVoeY8LE>

‘Gift of Sight’ pamphlet, available in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Chinese, Farsi, and French at:
<http://eyebankofbc.ca/resources/>

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 10 people may benefit from one person’s gift of eye donation.
2. What will 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.