

## No Organ Left Behind

*An effort to educate health care professionals regarding their role in improving organ donation rates at the Loyola University Medical Center*

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## 2006 Organ Donation

1. Gift of Hope Performance Objective:  
**75% donation rate** among those eligible
2. Gift of Hope Total Hospital Performance:  
79.8%
3. **Loyola Performance: 40% in 2006**  
(down to 13% in 2007)

## Donor Organ Need

1. Number of individuals awaiting life-saving transplantation is approaching 100,000
  - approximately 5,000 waiting in Illinois alone
2. Nearly 10,000 individuals became either too sick to be transplant or died awaiting transplant in 2007
  - nearly 500 in Illinois

## Objective

Develop an educational tool for health care professionals centered on improving awareness of both organ transplantation in general and their role in initiating the referral process

## Loyola's Role

1. Create an environment that supports donation
2. Ensure staff receive professional education and training
3. Identify and refer potential donors in a timely manner
4. Assist with donor care to optimize organ function
5. Provide grief support to patients' families

## Myth

“If I'm in an accident and the hospital knows I want to be a donor, the doctors won't try to save my life.”

## Fact

- Organ and tissue recovery takes place only after all efforts to save your life have been exhausted and death has been legally declared.
- The doctors trying to save your life are completely separate from the transplant surgeons involved in recovering organs and tissues, who are notified only after your death.

## Questionnaire

- Healthcare professionals were given a questionnaire to assess the opinions and deficits of the organ donation process at Loyola.

## Questionnaire

1. Have you ever initiated the organ donation process? If so, are you comfortable initiating the process?
2. What possible barriers would prevent you from calling Gift of Hope?
3. What challenges/misconceptions do you face when speaking to families/patients about organ donation?

## Questionnaire

4. Are you aware of instances in which a potential organ donor was not "evaluated" for donation or whose organs or tissue were not procured?
5. How would you improve the organ donation process to facilitate a greater percentage of potential organ donors to actually donate?
6. As a healthcare professional, what questions would you like clarified about organ donation?

## Results

### Bimodal distribution of responses

- *Group A* – uncomfortable with the process; felt a lack of active involvement in the process
- *Group B* – felt that physicians should be the initiator of the process of organ donation (instead of the Gift of Hope) to establish better relationship with the family of the potential donor

## Project

- **Goal:** Increase comfort & familiarity with the organ donation process among Loyola's hospital staff
- **Plan:** Design and implement an electronic educational tool for all health care professionals at Loyola emphasizing the:
  - i. *Steps* of the process
  - ii. *Roles* of the process
  - iii. *Initiation* of the process

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## Educational Tool

on

# Organ Donation

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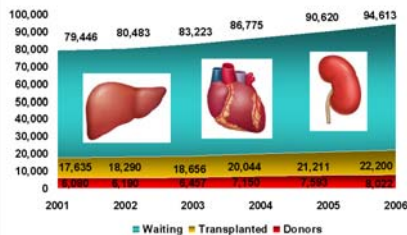
Developed by the  
Innovations in Leadership  
Project Team  
2008

## The Educational Tool

- Implement as an e-learning module
- An accompanying quiz will assess for a basic understanding of the key points of organ donation

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## Thousands are Waiting ...



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## Numbers Speak Volumes

*I just wanted to let you know that I have decided to be an organ donor, and I encourage you to be a donor, too.*



- Every 13 minutes, a new person is added to the national waiting list.
- More than **5,000 people** died nationwide waiting for an organ transplant in 2006.
- One donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people.

## Donation Data

- Loyola's Conversion Rate Goal: 75%
  - 2006 Annual Rate: 40%
  - 2007 Annual Rate: 13%
  - Jan 2008 Rate: 57%

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### Loyola's Role

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### Gift of Hope

- Not-for-profit organ procurement organization
  - Initiate contact with families regarding donation
  - Coordinate donation with Illinois/Indiana hospitals
  - Perform histocompatibility testing
  - Provide ongoing support for donor families
  - Provide professional and public education

## Working Together

- Common Goal: *NO ORGAN LEFT BEHIND*
- Coordination of Loyola's Healthcare Providers and Gift of Hope representatives

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### Role of Hospital Staff

Physicians	Nurses
Make major decisions about patient care	Provide on-going care to families throughout the patient's hospital stay
Work to preserve life before decision made to withdraw care	Coordinate clinical management of patients
Discuss withdrawal of life support with the patient's next of kin	Provide support for the family
May make the referral call to Gift of Hope about potential donor <b>1-800-545-GIFT(4438)</b>	May make the referral call to Gift of Hope about potential donor <b>1-800-545-GIFT(4438)</b>
Declare brain death or death by cardio-pulmonary criteria	Notify pastoral care

## Your Role

- Any Healthcare Provider may refer a potential donor to Gift of Hope

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## Brain Death Criteria

- Unresponsiveness
- Nature of coma must be known, and must be irreversible (body temperature must be >32 °C, not intoxicated, and not in shock)
- No electrical activity noted for 6 hrs with an EEG, 12 hrs without a confirmatory EEG, or 24hrs for anoxic brain injury
- Absence of cerebral and brain stem function
  - No pupillary responses, no ocular movement, no corneal and gag reflexes, no response to apnea test, lack of cerebral perfusion

[www.massgeneral.org/stopstroke/protocolofBrainDeath](http://www.massgeneral.org/stopstroke/protocolofBrainDeath)

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## Donation After Brain Death

### Donation Protocol:

- Neuro exam is consistent with brain death
- Brain death is declared by hospital physician
- Referral to **Gift of Hope** when death is imminent  
**1-800-545-GIFT(4438)**
- Patient is transferred to OR; remains on ventilator until organs are recovered
- Donation time: 24-36 hours

## Brain Death

- Irreversible loss of all functions of the entire brain and brain stem
- Declared by hospital physician

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## Donation After Cardiac Death

### DCD Protocol:

- Withdrawal of life-sustaining therapies is planned
- Referral to **Gift of Hope** when death is imminent  
**1-800-545-GIFT(4438)**
- Cardiac death is declared by hospital physician
- Patient is transferred to OR & organs are recovered
- Donation time: 12-20 hours

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## Cardiac Death Criteria

- *Record a 30 second strip* after all support has been withdrawn and the patient goes into asystole or PEA (pulseless electrical activity)
- After 5 minutes of asystole or PEA, *record an additional 30-second strip*
- The patient is *confirmed dead*

## Cardiac Death

- Withdrawal of life support is planned
- Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory function
- Death declared by hospital physician

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## Barriers to Donation

- Lack of identification and/or referral of potential donors
- Late referrals
- Myths and misconceptions
- Caregiver's negative attitudes, actions, and beliefs
- Inappropriate physical surroundings (where donation conversation takes place)
- Poor communication among organ procurement organization, donor hospital, and transplant hospital

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## Obligation for Donation

### ■ Medicare Conditions of Participation (HCFA Reg 482.45a1):

*"When death is imminent, the hospital must make the referral both **before** a potential donor is removed from a ventilator and while the potential donor's organs are still viable."*

# To Refer or Not to Refer

- Timely referral of all potential donors is critical
- All deaths & imminent deaths must be referred
- All families of eligible donors must be offered the opportunity to donate

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## The Donation Process

1. Healthcare Professionals contact Gift of Hope to evaluate patient as early as possible.
  - **1-800-545-GIFT(4438)**
2. Gift of Hope determines medical eligibility of potential donor.
3. Gift of hope approaches the family to obtain consent.
  - If pt is already donor, then they explain the process to family and answer questions.
  - If not, then the families are offered the option to donate.
4. Gift of Hope then obtains all medical info about the patient and organs are tested for potential transplant.

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## The Donation Process

5. Organ info is sent to the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) for matching with potential recipients.
6. Once all organs are placed, the organs are surgically removed and sent to the recipients.
7. Gift of Hope follows up with the family within a few weeks of the donation.



# The Process

- *Healthcare professionals* initiate process with timely referral to Gift of Hope
- *Gift of Hope* approaches patient's family for discussion of organ donation

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## Illinois Donor Registry

- Individuals can register a legally binding decision to become an organ/tissue donor after his/her death—additional witnesses, signatures or family consent are not required
- Illinoisans can register at any Secretary of State driver's license facility or by enrolling online, via telephone, or by mail



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## Donation Resources

Any questions regarding organ donation may be directed to:

**Loyola's Organ Transplant Coordinator:**  
Joyce Maly, RN, MSN  
708-216-9307  
Pager #12731  
jmalty@lumc.edu

Referrals to Gift of Hope:

**1-800-545-GIFT(4438)**

Information about Gift of Hope:

[www.giftofhope.com](http://www.giftofhope.com)

Donation & Transplantation Data:

United Network for Organ Sharing  
[www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)

Loyola's donation policies are available on the Electronic Medical Record under the *Policies & Procedures* Section

## Become a Donor...& more

- Donate life
- Loyola's In-House Coordinator: **Joyce Maly**

## Summary

Development of an E-learning Module to address questionnaire results:

## Summary

- **Implement E-Learning Tool**
  - Orientation requirement for all nursing staff and residents
  - Particularly, ICUs and ED
- **Measures of Effectiveness:**
  - Test scores
  - Repeat Questionnaire
  - Increase Loyola's Performance in Donation
- **In the end:**
  - **Increased comfort & familiarity with the organ donation process**

## Quiz

1. Which member of the health care team is responsible for initiating the referral?

**ALL Healthcare Professionals**

2. What is the phone number for Gift of Hope?

**1-800-545-GIFT**

## Quiz

3. What is the goal conversion rate of potential organ donors?

**75%**

4. How many imminent deaths should be referred to Gift of Hope?

**All**

## Quiz

5. Who is responsible for initiating contact with the family members of potential organ donors?

**Gift of Hope**

6. How many individuals are currently awaiting solid organ transplant in the US?

**~ 100,000**

## Quiz

7. For how long must a patient remain in asystole to be declared dead by the cardiac death criteria?

**5 minutes**

8. Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory function is which of the 2 types of death?

**Cardiac Death**

*Innovations in Leadership*  
2008



LOYOLA  
MEDICINE

Loyola University Chicago  
Stritch School of Medicine

9. Each individual organ donor may save or enhance the lives of how many people?

**25**

10. Who is Loyola's organ transplant coordinator?

**Joyce Maly, RN, MSN**