Position Statement on Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) in the Neurologically Aware

Ethics Committee

Ms. Alexandra Glazier, JD, MPH, Chair
June 24-25, 2013
Potential DCD candidates: Patients who are on a ventilator after devastating and irreversible brain injuries, and following a decision to withdraw support.

Neurologically Aware: Patients who are able to authorize their own treatment and donation decisions.
It has been reported that some transplant professionals are reluctant to recover or accept organs from DCD donors who made their own decision to withdraw support.

Ethical guidance is needed to support the coordination of DCD in these cases. This is expected to facilitate use of organs for transplantation.

Historically the Board has adopted short statements from time to time on topics where ethical guidance is sought.
Committee Consideration of the Issue

- The Ethics Committee unanimously determined that *DCD in the neurological aware population does not raise any unique ethical issues.*

- The main consideration is that the withdrawal of care decision is made in an ethically and clinically appropriate manner and independent of the donation decision.
Committee Support and Vote

- Ethics Committee voted to recommend the statement by a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

- OPO Committee Leadership reviewed the statement and was comfortable that it did not conflict with current DCD policies and generally supported it.

- OPTN/UNOS Executive Committee reviewed at May 1, 2013 mtg and voted to present the position statement to the full Board.
If approved...

- Position statement will be posted on the OPTN website as a professional resource

- May be highlighted in *UNOS Update* and *Transplant Pro*
RESOLVED, that the position statement regarding DCD in the neurologically aware population, as set forth in Resolution 10, is hereby approved, effective June 25, 2013.

*Page 19 of Board book*
Questions?