

A National Problem

Organ donation saves lives. As of June 2005, more than 88,000 people are on the national waiting list, 5,900 from Texas. About 20 Americans die every day while waiting for a life-saving transplant because there are simply not enough organs available.

Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's (JCAHO) White Paper on organ donation states that, "No more than half of organs that could be transplanted are actually being [recovered] in hospitals. As is painfully obvious, complex issues underlie the failure of this nation to meet its organ donation objectives."

A National Initiative

In April 2003, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services teamed up with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to launch the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative. By having hospital leaders team up with their Organ Procurement Organizations, the Collaborative's goals are to *increase the conversion rate from the national average of 46% to 75%*. The results so far are impressive.

- ▶ In 2004, conversion rates in hospitals that participated in the Collaborative increased to 64%.
- ▶ In hospitals nationwide, the conversion rate increased to 56%.

In 2005, a new Collaborative will work to increase the organ yield from 3.14 to 3.75 organs per donor.

MISSION STATEMENT

Southwest Transplant Alliance exists to save and improve lives by providing organs and tissues for transplantation.

We distinguish ourselves by forging meaningful relationships with donor families and the communities we serve in order to realize every possible donation.

VISION STATEMENT

Every organ and tissue donation opportunity is realized as long as the need exists.



SOUTHWEST TRANSPLANT ALLIANCE
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Vital Information
ORGAN DONATION
for Hospital Leaders



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Giving the gift of life

The Conversion Rate

The conversion rate is the gold standard measure to assess organ donation effectiveness. It is the number of *organ donors divided by the donor potential*. Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA) regularly conducts medical record reviews to determine your hospital's conversion rate.

JCAHO's Commitment to Increasing Organ Donation

JCAHO, along with other health care leaders, have partnered with the Collaborative. This commitment has resulted in a new organ donation standard, which states that "the conversion rate data are collected and analyzed, and when possible, steps are taken to improve the rate." Other JCAHO standards reflect the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoP) regarding organ donation.

CMS's Commitment to Increasing Organ Donation

In August 1998, CMS implemented new hospital CoPs regarding organ procurement. Per 42 CFR §482.45, hospitals "must have and implement written protocols that:"

- ▶ Incorporate an agreement with STA
- ▶ STA must be notified of all deaths and, more importantly, imminent deaths in a timely manner



In 2005, 184 hospitals were recognized for achieving 75% or better conversion rates.

- ▶ STA determines medical suitability for organ donors
- ▶ Agreements with tissue and eye banks do not interfere with organ procurement
- ▶ The family of each potential donor is informed of their options to donate and is done so with discretion and sensitivity with respect to the circumstances, views, and beliefs of the family
- ▶ The individual designated by the hospital to approach families must be from STA or has completed a course by STA
- ▶ Ensure that the hospital works collaboratively with STA in educating staff on donation issues, reviewing death records to improve identification of potential donors, and maintaining potential donors while necessary testing and placement of potential organs take place

The Hospital Leader's Role

Successful donation programs begin with hospital leaders. The Breakthrough Collaborative and its health care leadership partners recommend the following based on best practices and study results:

- ▶ Use the conversion rate as a quality indicator for your hospital

- ▶ Create interdisciplinary teams, *actively supported by senior hospital leaders*, to work with STA to analyze variances, identify opportunities for improvement, and recommend changes to the referral and clinical processes
- ▶ Work with STA to adopt and use clinical triggers that enables every patient to be identified and referred to STA in a timely manner
- ▶ Ensure hospital brain-death policies are consistent with national guidelines to ensure an effective and appropriate process
- ▶ Work with STA to ensure that appropriate and effective family support and consent protocols are implemented
- ▶ After each donation, personally thank your staff for their efforts
- ▶ Support refinements to the CMS regulations by working with STA to incorporate best practices to increase donation

For More Information:

www.organ.org

(Southwest Transplant Alliance)

<http://organdonation.iqsolutions.com>

(Breakthrough Collaborative)



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