
TRILLIUM GIFT OF LIFE NETWORK'S INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- **Full implementation of Routine Notification and Request by the end of 2006/07**
 - Routine Notification and Request (RNR) is a strategy to improve organ and tissue donor rates to save and enhance more lives in Ontario. This updated legislation requires 13 type “A” designated hospitals to report every death to Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN). Reporting of every death ensures that accurate identification can be made of a potential donor and that eligible families are provided the opportunity to donate and fulfill their loved one’s wishes. Hospitals currently participating in RNR include: Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hospital for Sick Children, Hotel-Dieu Grace (Windsor), Kingston General Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, The Ottawa Hospital, St. Michael’s Hospital, Sudbury Regional Hospital, Sunnybrook and Women’s College Hospital, Thunder Bay Regional Hospital, Trillium Health Centre and University Health Network.
- **Introduction of Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD)**

Organ donation after cardiac death should be an option for families of patients who have decided to withdraw life support after a physician has determined that there is no long-term prognosis for recovery and for those patients who do not meet the criteria for neurological death (brain-dead). Improved medications and surgical techniques have dramatically improved the outcomes for recipients of DCD donated organs. These advances combined with the severe shortage of organs make organ donation after cardiac death another option for patients and families interested in giving the gift of life. DCD is widely accepted in the U.S. and donation rates increased upwards of 20 percent.
- **Effective requesting training for all TGLN in-hospital coordinators**

This new, value-positive approach to consent for organ (and tissue) donation involves special training that supports donor families while advocating for the nearly 2000 individuals in Ontario who continue to wait for transplant. Public opinion surveys consistently indicate over 80% of Ontarians support organ and tissue donation yet consent rates average at 50%.. This new approach aims to close this gap by building on the supports for donation that Ontarians have expressed while building on the belief that most people, given the opportunity to save lives and help people, would. The new approach incorporates important feedback from donor families on why they chose to donate (i.e. to leave a legacy, to help others, to honour the generous nature of their loved one) and recognizes the individuality of each person and family through exploring the unique meaning of donation to that person or family. This approach will enable many families to act on their support for donation during what for many will be the most difficult time in their life.

- **Implementation of ‘First Things First’ from the United States Breakthrough Collaborative**
 - The Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative is an initiative for increasing organ donor rates organized by the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services and the Institute for Health Care Improvement. Evidence-based strategies are implemented with joint accountability from hospital staff and Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) members focusing on performance improvement efforts and outcomes. Sharing of ideas occurs through a network of these teams in the collaborative, each building on the others’ learning and success.

- **Increased education and awareness of organ and tissue donation**
 - It is the intention and goal of TGLN to ensure that all Ontarians know how large the organ and tissue waiting list is at all times and to inform the public of the benefits of organ donation. One donor can save the lives of up to seven people and enhance the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation. It is imperative that families view organ and tissue donation as an essential part of end-of-life care.

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Trillium Gift of Life Network is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario and is responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation across Ontario and improving the system so that more lives can be saved.