

## Steps to Eye Donation

1. Call the Donor Referral Line immediately in the event of the death, or impending death, of a patient age 75 years and younger.

This time line is vital as the eyes must be retrieved within 8 hours from the time of death.

### Donor Referral Line: 1-877-366-6722

The Human Tissue Gift Act is a Provincial Law that states:

All deaths 75 years or younger **must** be reported, by law, to the Donor Referral line.

**\*Even if the coroner is notified you must call\***

2. Provide the following information to the donor referral line:

Your facility, unit, phone number and local

Patient Age

Time of Death

Cause of Death

Medical History of: Infectious Disease  
CNS disorders eg. M.S., Parkinson's  
Blood borne cancers

If Available: WBC count, Blood Cultures  
Temperature

**\*Record the Reference Number in the patient's chart.**

3. If the patient has been determined to be a suitable donor the family should be approached and given the choice to donate their loved one's eyes. Families often derive a sense of comfort by making this gift.

#### Resources:

- The '**Gift of Sight**' pamphlet is a useful tool when approaching the family.  
Available in English, Punjabi, Chinese, & Farsi <http://eyebankofbc.ca/resources/>
- Request for Consent for Eye Donation Video (9 minutes)

4. **Obtain written or verbal consent** from the next of kin.

- Nursing staff, spiritual care, social workers or physicians may obtain and witness consent.
- '**Consent for Donation of Organs/Tissues**' form. <http://eyebankofbc.ca/resources/>

Note: If no one is comfortable, or available, to approach the family the eye bank staff can do so.

5. **Care of the Eyes** is as follows:

1. Close the eyes
2. Every 1 hour instill 4-5 gtts of; Sterile Normal Saline, Balanced Salt Solution, Artificial Tears, or Optimyxin

Once the family has said their goodbyes:

3. Tape the eyes closed with paper tape
4. Apply a bag filled with crushed ice and water

