



Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (DCDD)

Site	BCH
Setting/Population	Intensive Care Units/Eligible DCDD Patients
Clinician	All Clinicians

Policy

- Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (DCDD) from Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) patient-donors is guided by the [Foundation Conditions for Pediatric Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death](#) established by the DCDD Task Force and accepted by the Medical Staff Executive Committee (MSEC). While our patients are living, our primary aim is to ensure that the Foundation Conditions for DCDD are met. Among other goals, this entails that patients should receive end-of-life care that is as consistent as possible with the quality of care they would have received if not a prospective organ donor.
- BCH will implement the Patient Care Protocol: [Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death \[Pre-Mortem\]](#) for donation of kidneys, livers, and any other organs that can be satisfactorily donated consistent with its terms. Donors may include BCH patients of any age who have given informed consent, or for whom proxy consent has been given, as provided in the [Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death Consent Form](#) and who have met the consent requirements of the New England Organ Bank. The DCDD Protocol and the DCDD Consent Form may be amended from time to time by the Hospital's Organ Donation Oversight Committee (ODOC), subject to the approval of the Senior Clinical Leadership Council (SCLC).
- When BCH surgeons procure organs at other institutions, and when organs are offered for transplantation in a recipient at BCH, the donor hospital will be generally responsible for setting policy for the end-of-life care of the donor, including the criteria for declaration of death, subject to the approval of the relevant OPO. It is understood that these protocols may not be the same as the DCDD protocols used at BCH, and that at this stage in the development of DCDD there can be reasonable differences of opinion as to the appropriate ethical standards within the range of conduct that is both legal and acceptable under national professional guidelines. The following special rules nonetheless apply:
 - BCH surgeons may not take part in the pre-mortem procedures or declaration of death of any patient whose organs they will procure.
 - BCH surgeons will not begin recovery of organs from patients until at least 2 minutes of acirculation have transpired. BCH staff will not knowingly accept DCDD organs recovered by surgeons from any other institution if the recovery took place after less than two minutes of acirculation. This minimum time may be altered if, in the judgment of the SCLC, the change is supported by further scientific review regarding the time of death in children.

- When DCDD organs are accepted for transplantation at BCH, BCH staff who would be involved directly in the procedure will be fully informed in advance of the fact that the organ is from a DCDD donor, the known circumstances surrounding the donation, and the relevant policies of BCH. Consistent with the Foundation Conditions, staff rights to avoid participation based on conscientious objection will be respected.
- Once a donor is deceased, the Hospital's primary aim is to benefit organ recipients. To this end, it is anticipated that innovative postmortem procedures could be developed to maintain or improve organ function. These shall be subject to appropriate policy review in the event they might reestablish cerebral perfusion or cause substantial offense to patient or public sensibilities.

Donations not Addressed by this Policy

- Proposed DCDD donations that do not fall within the terms of this policy and the approved protocol will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Organ Donation Oversight Committee (ODOC), until policies addressing the new circumstances have been adopted by BCH.
- In each case, the Organ Donation Oversight Committee will consult with the Director of the Transplant Program, the attending physician and, in cases of ICU involvement, the chief of the pertinent ICU. Decisions will be consistent with the Foundation Conditions for DCDD. The committee may approve or disapprove the proposed DCDD, subject to final review and decision by the SCLC.

Organ Donation Oversight Committee

- There shall be an Organ Donation Oversight Committee (ODOC), which will be chaired by a designee of the Governance Committee of the Intensive Care Units (GCICU). This committee will be responsible for the implementation of the Organ and Tissue Donation Policy and the DCDD policy at Boston Children's Hospital. This committee will be made of physician and nursing representatives from the four BCH ICUs and other designees of the GCICU chair.
- The ODOC chair will report bi-monthly to the GCICU and semi-annually to the SCLC concerning all issues of implementation of the Organ and Tissue Donation Policy and the DCDD policy in practice, and the fulfillment of the requirements of this policy.
- The ODOC will make minor clarifications of the BCH DCDD Policy and implement the same pending SCLC approval.
- The ODOC shall be responsible for recommending adaptations of the DCDD protocol for additional organs and patient populations to the GCICU and SCLC. The ODOC will seek review and approval of any recommended adaptations of this protocol through other governance committees in this institution, including the Operating Room Governance Committee, GCICU, and the Cardiovascular and Critical Care Policy and Practice Review Committee.
- The ODOC will be responsible for periodic staff education, ensuring that sufficient qualified personnel have freely indicated their willingness to participate in the DCDD process, and training participants in the DCDD protocol.

References

None Identified

Related Content

Policy

- Clinician Administrative Manual: [Organ and Tissue Donation](#)

Tools

- [Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death Consent Form](#)
- Patient Care Protocol: [Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death \[Pre-Mortem\]](#)
- Patient Care References: [Foundation Conditions for Pediatric Organ Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death](#)

Websites

- CHB [Pediatric Transplant Center](#)
- CHB [Bereavement Resources](#)
- Massachusetts General Law [Chapter 113](#)

Document Attributes

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