

# PHYSICIAN CONNECTION

Issue I

Fall/2017

Collaboration



Education



Innovation

## WE ARE LISTENING!

In September 2016, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) contracted with Research Planning Group to interview Arizona physicians regarding the donation process. We greatly appreciate your feedback and DNA wants you to know - we are listening.

Overall, the results of our interviews showed that physicians are looking for more preparatory education before cases, more follow-up after cases, and improved communication in general. In response, DNA staff has committed itself to enhancing our working relationship by providing the information, education and support our hospital partners asked for in the *Physician Connection* electronic newsletter.

Growing relationships and collaboration with hospital leaders will strengthen your hospital's donation program. We are hopeful that the Physician Connection will be the gateway to providing relevant education resources and keep you informed regarding donation. We look forward to continuing our shared mission to save and heal lives. We thank you for your ongoing support!

## WHO IS DONOR NETWORK OF ARIZONA?

Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) is the state's federally designated, nonprofit organ procurement organization that coordinates organ, eye and tissue donation for transplantation. DNA is dedicated to working with our health care and community partners to support donor families, facilitate organ, eye and tissue donation for transplant and encourage people in our community to donate life. We also provide histocompatibility testing through our immunogenetics laboratory.

DNA is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, the American Association of Tissue Banks, the Eye Bank Association of America and the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. We are designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for our role as Arizona's only organ procurement organization and are registered with the Food and Drug Administration for our role as a tissue and eye recovery organization for transplant.

In order to keep in compliance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), hospitals and DNA collaborate on the referral and screening of potential donors, educate staff on donation process, review death records in order to improve identification of potential donors, and medically maintain potential donors.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Ramos  
Tania Kemp  
Melissa Moore  
Chelsea Scheeler  
Ericca Martinez

## EDITORS

Sara Pace Jones  
Leslie Futral  
Patricia Pace Anderson



## DONATION DATA

### Trauma Center Comparison

#### Potential Organ Donor:

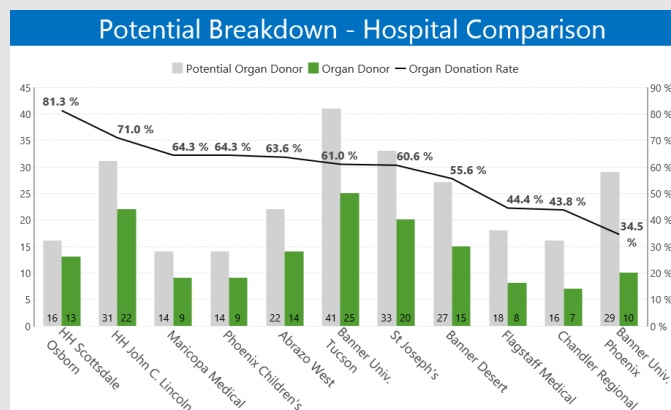
The number of patients with organ donation potential.

#### Organ Donor:

The number of patients where organs were recovered and transplanted.

#### Organ Donation Rate:

The number of organ donors that were recovered for transplant expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable regardless of brain death declaration.



## DONATION EDUCATION

### The Two Donation Pathways

DNA depends on the hospital for identifying and referring patients that meet clinical triggers for organ donation. If a patient deteriorates, they may become a donor following declaration of brain death or, following circulatory death (DCD) with first person or legal next-of-kin authorization.

## The Two Donation Pathways

### Brain Death

- Patient declared brain dead
- DNA assumes care/writes orders per protocol
- Potential for eight organs to be transplanted
- Controlled perfusion and warm ischemic time
- Family not present when heart stops in OR

### Donation After Circulatory Death

- Decision to withdraw the ventilator
- Physician writes orders and still manages patient
- Family can be present for withdraw/death
- Physician declares death and DNA adheres to a five minute wait time before incision
- Potential for six organs to be transplanted (no heart/intestine)
- Perfusion, the amount of warm ischemic time, as well as other factors dictates whether or not the organ(s) is/are transplantable

## BRAIN DEATH PATHWAY

Brain death is the irreversible loss of function of the brain and brain stem. Brain death occurs when brain function ceases because the flow of blood to the brain is stopped permanently due to a severe neurological injury. In accordance with hospital policy, a physician will perform a series of tests to determine brain death and also rule out any other reasons that might be causing the brain not to function such as medical conditions, medications, or extreme cold. Only after all required testing confirms a patient is brain dead, and a physician has clearly explained to the family the diagnosis, will Donor Network of Arizona speak with a family about the opportunity for donation. A patient will be maintained on a ventilator throughout the donation process, until the time an OR is scheduled for recovery. Up to eight lives can be saved by a brain dead. The organs which can be recovered and transplanted are: lungs, liver, heart, kidneys, pancreas

## DONATION AFTER CIRCULATORY DEATH (DCD) PATHWAY

Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) is an option for families of patients who suffer non-survivable brain injuries who do not meet the criteria for brain death. Following a family's decision to withdraw life-sustaining measures, DNA will collaborate with hospital staff on the best timing for a donation conversation. After a family's authorization for donation, DNA and hospital staff will collaborate to make arrangements for withdrawal of support in accordance with hospital policy. Once the patient's heart stops beating, recovery can take place. Through this pathway, the lungs, liver, pancreas and kidneys may be recovered for transplant. In our next issue we will discuss the physician's role in this process.

## PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Donald Green, MD

Trauma Surgeon, Abrazo West Campus

In May 2017, there were an unprecedented amount of donors at Abrazo West Campus. Seven organ donors lead to the recovery of 36 organs, saving 27 lives. To say West Campus' staff was amazing, is a huge understatement! In the midst of these life-saving events, Dr. Donald Green remained a constant source of support for both hospital and DNA staff. Most importantly, he took great care of the patients and families. Dr. Green was the physician involved in the brain death declaration of three of the seven organ donors using the hospital's policy and checklist. In each case, he took the time to meet with the families and, not only explain the circumstances of their loved one's passing, but offer them the opportunity to ask questions and observe testing.

We sincerely appreciate our partnership with Dr. Donald Green and the amazing staff at Abrazo West Campus. Dr. Green is board certified in trauma and general surgery with Abrazo Medical Group. He served as a surgeon for 10 years in the U.S. Navy, where he was deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. He then spent six years at the Navy Trauma Training Center at the Los Angeles County Medical Center.

