THE DONATION PROCESS

STEP 1 : REFERRAL

Every time a patient passes away, hospitals are required by federal law to notify their local organ procurement organization in order to determine if the patient is medically suitable for organ and tissue donation.

STEP 2 : EVALUATION

Nevada Donor Network will review the patient's current medicalstate and medical history to determine if the patient is a potential donor.

STEP 3 : AUTHORIZATION

If it is determined the patient is eligible for donation, our Family Services team will check the Nevada Donor Registry online database to find out if the patient is a registered donor. If the patient is not from Nevada, our team will coordinate with the organ procurement organization in patient's home state to find out if he or she is a registered donor.

STEP 4 : FAMILY DISCUSSION

If the patient is a registered donor, our team will make the family aware that their loved one made the decision to donate, explain the process, answer any questions they have and provide any support the family may need. If the person is not a registered donor, our team will offer the option of donation to the family, as required by federal and state law. If the family provides authorization for donation, our Family Services team will work with the family to understand the process and the next steps.

STEP 5 : DONOR CARE

After a family provides authorization for donation, our team must obtain very detailed information about the patient's medical and social history. This information allows our team to determine what organs and tissues may be suitable for transplantation and be aware of any possible risk factors that could put a recipient at risk. After a patient is declared deceased, Nevada Donor Network assumes care of the donor. Our team conducts tests and maintains the donor's body with fluids and medications to ensure the organs remain suitable for transplantation. Test results are submitted to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) database so a list of potential matching recipients can be generated.

STEP 6 : FINDING A RECIPIENT

Nevada Donor Network receives a list of possible matching recipients from UNOS. This list uses unique patient ID numbers to maintain confidentiality of the potential recipients. One by one, our team members begin contacting transplant centers with information about the possible matching organ. The recipient's surgeon is given the opportunity to ask questions and then decide if they would like to accept or decline the organ. If the organ is declined, the next transplant center on the list is contact. The process continues until all organs are placed.

STEP 7 : ORGAN RECOVERY

Once all organs have been placed with a recipient, Nevada Donor Network communicates with the hospital staff to reserve an operating room for the organ recovery surgery. Our team also facilitates the transportation for any transplant teams coming from out of town for the recovery. The organ recovery is a surgical procedure performed with the same care and respect as all surgeries. If tissue is being donated, the tissue recovery must take place within 24 hours of the patient's death. The transportation from the hospital to the recovery site is coordinated by Nevada Donor Network staff. After the tissue is recovered, our team facilitates transportation to the family's selected funeral service provider.

STEP 8 : FAMILY SUPPORT

After the organs are transplanted, the family will be contacted by Nevada Donor Network's Aftercare Coordinator with information about their loved one's gifts. The correspondence they receive includes a letter confirming which organs and tissues were donated along with general information about the recipients, a copy of the donation authorization form, tips on writing to their loved one's recipients and a remembrance journal. Nevada Donor Network continues to offer support for families in the years following the donation through our Aftercare Program.