



IDENTIFICATION OF ANATOMICAL DONOR PATIENTS

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code 7152.5: (b) The following persons shall make a reasonable search for a document of gift or other information identifying the bearer as a donor or as an individual who has refused to make an anatomical gift:

- 1) *A law enforcement officer...*
- 2) *A hospital...*
- 3) *Ambulance or emergency medical personnel, upon providing emergency medical services to an individual, when it appears that death of that individual may be imminent*

II. APPLICATION:

This policy establishes guidelines for prehospital personnel to perform a reasonable search for organ donor information on an unconscious adult patient for whom death appears imminent.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Reasonable search means a brief attempt to locate documentation that may identify a patient as a potential organ donor, or as one who has refused to make an anatomical gift. A search for a driver's license or other identification card with this information may be limited to a wallet or purse that is on or near the individual.

Imminent death means a condition wherein an illness or injury is of such severity that in the opinion of the prehospital personnel, death is likely to occur before the patient arrives at the receiving hospital.

IV. GUIDELINE:

Note: A reasonable search shall not take precedence over patient care/treatment.

- A. When prehospital personnel encounter an unconscious adult patient for whom it appears death is imminent, s/he shall attempt a "reasonable search" of the patient's belongings to determine if the individual carries information indicating the patient's status as an organ donor.
- B. If a document of gift or other information identifying the bearer as a donor or as an individual who has refused to make an anatomical gift is located by the search and the patient is transported to the hospital, the hospital shall be notified of the contents and the document or other evidence shall be sent to the hospital with the patient.
- C. If the EMT reasonably suspects an exposure to infectious bodily fluids, s/he shall not make the search.

Italicized text identifies quotations from an authority outside the Orange County EMS.

Approved:

P/P: 330.52
Reformatted Date: March, 2004