

# Donation Referral Process

- Hospital must make referral call within **60 minutes** of patient meeting clinical triggers.
- **Do not de-escalate care/remove vent prior to speaking with the donation agency.**
- Donation agency determines medical suitability.
- Donation agency initiates donation discussions with family.

**INVESTIGATE BEFORE  
YOU EXTUBATE**

**Call 1-888-543-3287**



## Triggers for Organ Donation

Ventilated Patients

Loss of three  
or more  
brainstem  
reflexes

OR

Anticipated or  
planned discussion  
surrounding  
end-of-life

## Brainstem Reflexes

Pupils fixed | No corneal response | No cough | No gag  
No response to painful stimuli | No spontaneous breathing  
No doll's eyes reflex | No response to cold calorics

## Trigger for Tissue Donation

All patients at cardiac time of death  
(including previously vented, ruled out for organ donation and never vented)

# Donation Referral Process

Please check with the ICU/ER nurse on **ANY** intubated patient before **EVERY** terminal extubation.

Ensure donation referral, updates and evaluation for suitability have been completed prior to terminal extubation.



## Why?

The vent must remain in place in order for organ donation to be possible.

An evaluation for suitability must take place; families must be given the choice of donation.

It honors registered donors' end-of-life decisions and provides families the opportunity to save lives.

It is a hospital regulatory requirement.

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**LifeCenter**  
Northwest