Register as an organ, tissue and cornea donor at donors1.org

Geisinger
Surgical Resident Training Overview & Introduction
April 27, 2017

ADVOCACY

Eileen Grugan, whose son Charles saved three lives through organ donation

Register as an organ, tissue and cornea donor at donors1.org
Explaining Brain Death: Program Objectives

You will be able to identify some of the reasons families become confused about brain death.

You will be able to utilize techniques to help you communicate brain death more effectively.

You will be able to facilitate an effective transition to the discussion with the organ procurement coordinator.
Explaining Brain Death: Program Overview

• Pre-Test

• Didactic / Classroom / Discussion
  – Literature review
  – Grieving process
  – Components of an effective brain death explanation

• Role Play
  – Simulated scenario
  – Frank, honest feedback

• Post-Test
Goals:

• Prepare family, staff
• Timely declaration of death
• Notify family
• Maintain organ function
• Parallel planning to preserve family’s donation opportunity
“The family are not just visitors to the ICU; they are an extension of our patient and therefore experience the process of care along with their loved ones.”

Alvarez, GF; Kirby, AS. The perspective of families of the critically ill patient: their needs [Ethical, legal and organizational issues in the intensive care unit]. Current Opinion in Critical Care; Volume 12(6), December 2006, p 614–618
Communicating with Families of Patients Who Have Died, or Are Facing Imminent Death, Requires:

1. Medical Expertise and Knowledge
2. Compassion and Concern
3. Experience
Simulation Scenario Highlights

- **Patient:** Samantha Green  
  20 y/o student MVA  
  Admitted to ER GCS of 3

- **Family:** Laura Green (*Mother*) – for female role-player  
  Sarah Green (*Sister*)

- Only parent present at hospital, has been at hospital since 0500 at bedside entire time

- Parent has received next to no information regarding daughter’s condition / prognosis
Compassionate End of Life Care and Organ Donation.....
A Confluence of Interest

...Supported by the Hospital Care Team
and the OPO Professional