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# Transplants: Donor Protocol

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This section contains information to help inpatient providers understand organ and tissue donor protocols.

## Organ and Tissue Donor Protocols

Section 7184 of the *Health and Safety Code* requires each general acute care hospital in California to develop a formal protocol for identifying potential organ and tissue donors. All acute care hospitals must comply with this regulation as a condition of participation in the Medi-Cal program.

The protocol must require that:

- At or near the time of notification of death, any deceased individual's next of kin or other person, as stated in Section 7151.5 of the *Health and Safety Code*, must be asked whether the deceased was an organ donor or if the family is a donor family.
- If the deceased was not an organ donor or if the family is not a donor family, the hospital must require the staff to inform the family of the option to donate organs and tissues.
- If the designated next of kin or other individual (Section 7151.5, *Health and Safety Code*) approves the donation of organs and tissues, the hospital must then notify an organ and tissue procurement organization and cooperate in procuring the anatomical gift(s).
- If an organ and tissue donation organization does not exist locally, the hospital has the responsibility to contact an appropriate procurement organization outside its local area.
- The hospital staff is encouraged to be discreet and sensitive to the family circumstances in all discussions regarding organ and tissue donations and to respect the deceased individual's religious beliefs or obvious nonsuitability for organ and tissue donation(s).
- If a recipient has been declared dead and is a potential organ donor, all costs of subsequent medical care for preservation of the organ(s) will not be reimbursed by Medi-Cal except as follows:
  - If the recipient declared dead is an organ donor for another Medi-Cal recipient, Medi-Cal will reimburse for the costs of medical care provided for preservation of the donated organ(s). Claims are submitted under the Client Identification Number (CIN) or Benefits Identification Card (BIC) of the recipient who receives the organ.

Hospitals must comply with all laws pertaining to notification of the coroner in all cases of reportable deaths.

**<<Legend>>**

<<Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.>>

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Description</b>
<<	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
>>	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.