

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 08/16/2017	NUMBER: E-31.2
	Replaces: 5/20/2016	
	Formulated: 2/91 Reviewed: 04/22	Page 1 of 2
<b>ORGAN OR TISSUE DONATION</b>		

**PURPOSE:** To ensure uniformity of eligibility of inmates for voluntary access to organ or tissue donation.

**POLICY:**

I. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) will make voluntary organ or tissue donations available to inmates at the TDCJ Hospital at Galveston. The consent for organ or tissue donation, as well as the charges incurred in the preliminary testing and the actual donation process, are the sole responsibility of the donor, donor recipient, and organization financially responsible for the donation (including lab work, shipping and all hospital charges).

During the intake process, each inmate will be offered an opportunity to sign a “Gift of Life” Tissue and Organ Donor Form (Attachment A). This will allow tissue and organ donation for transplantation purposes only, in the event of an inmate’s death while in custody if the inmate consents to be an organ donor, the completed form will be scanned into the EHR Administrative Section. “Organ Donor” will appear as an alert on the Roster screen Registration screen and Patient Summary screen

- A. Inmates who do not wish to make a decision at the time of intake may do so later through a request to Medical Records.
- B. If the inmate wishes to rescind the gift, he/she will submit a request to Medical Records to sign the “Retraction of Tissue and Organ Donor Status” (Attachment B) indicating he/she is revoking the Uniform Donor Card, and the signature shall be witnessed. The scanning of this document into the EHR will automatically remove the “Organ Donor” status alert from (1) the Patient Summary screen, (2) the Roster screen (3) the Registration screen and (4) the Organ Donor report.

II. All requests for inmate participation in organ or tissue donation must be originated from the physician managing the organ recipient transplantation team. Access to the inmate housing assignment and facility personnel will occur through the TDCJ Division Director for Health Services or designee.

III. The transplantation team will be responsible for informed consent in writing. All donations are free and voluntary. The inmate will receive no award or compensation of any kind for his donation, including but not limited to preferred treatment by the TDCJ or improved opportunity for parole. An inmate may refuse or rescind a donation at any time or consent to a donation as long as he/she is mentally competent, and this refusal or consent will not affect reward or penalty for having done so. All consents must include the potential organ of donation and whether the donation is to occur while the inmate is alive or at death.

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- IV. The transplant team coordinator may not initially communicate directly with the inmate. The transplant team coordinator must contact the TDCJ Division Director for Health Services or designee to obtain permission and clearance to communicate with the inmate. The Division Director for Health Services or designee will, in turn, communicate and coordinate the request with the UTMB or Texas Tech medical director as warranted.
  
- V. All organ or tissue harvesting will occur at the TDCJ Hospital at Galveston. If the organ or tissue harvesting technology is not available at that hospital, the Division Director for Health Services may authorize the organ or tissue harvesting to be done at a Texas facility other than the TDCJ Hospital at Galveston, on a case by case basis.
  
- VI. TDCJ will absorb the transportation costs of the donor between the assigned facility and the TDCJ Hospital at Galveston as well as normal costs of operational security at that hospital. If the tissue or organ harvesting is authorized at another facility, then the donor recipient or organization responsible for payment must bear the transportation and security costs. The TDCJ will provide an estimate for these anticipated costs and payment must be received prior to the movement of the donor from his/her assigned facility.

Reference: TDCJ-ID Administrative Directive AD-03.29, TDCJ Procedures To Be Followed In Cases of Inmate Death