

Suggested Protocol for Discussing Brain Death with the Family

Do not mention organ donation

Develop a family communication plan (pick one spokesperson for family)

- Explain / reinforce grave prognosis and care plan with family
- Support family / assess understanding
- Review / /adjust communication plan

Does family understand grave prognosis?

Yes



No



Brain death imminent

- Explain / reinforce brain death imminent and care plan with family
- Support family / assess understanding
- Review / adjust communication plan

Does family understand brain death is imminent?

Yes



No



Brain death confirmation

- Think about having a family member at the bedside during the brain death procedure.
- Explain / reinforce brain death confirmation and care plan with family
- Support family / assess understanding
- Review / adjust communication plan

Does family understand brain death confirmation?

Yes



No



See page 2 on how to guide the brain death discussion

Family communication protocol for explaining brain death