



Hospital Identification and Referral

When a patient has a severe injury and is not expected to recover, the hospital notifies HonorBridge, as required by law. Making this timely referral gives families more time to consider organ donation and increases the chance of saving lives.



SEPARATE PATHWAYS TO ORGAN DONATION AFTER DEATH



DONATION AFTER CIRCULATORY DETERMINATION OF DEATH (DCD)

Family Discussion & Authorization

The medical team discusses ending life-sustaining medical treatments and ventilator support with the family. If the family agrees, HonorBridge offers the opportunity for organ donation. Donation only happens with the family's permission.



Medical Evaluation

HonorBridge reviews the patient's medical history and works with the hospital team to see which organs can be donated.



Medical Treatment is Discontinued

The hospital team continues caring for the patient and providing comfort measures. When treatments and ventilator support are stopped, HonorBridge and the surgical team are on standby for organ recovery.



Death is Declared

Doctors wait until the patient's heart and breathing have stopped. After observing for five minutes with no return of circulation, the patient is declared dead by the hospital team.



HonorBridge and the surgical recovery teams begin organ recovery



Organ Matching & Recovery

HonorBridge uses the national waitlist to offer donated organs to transplant centers with matched patients. Once an organ is accepted, it is recovered, preserved, and sent to a transplant hospital for transplant.

DONATION AFTER NEUROLOGIC DEATH (BRAIN DEATH OR DBD)

Brain Death Testing

Doctors run tests to check brain activity, reflexes, and whether the patient can breathe on their own without a ventilator.



Death is Declared

If tests show the patient has lost all brain and brain stem function, the hospital team declares the patient dead.



Family Discussions & Authorization

The family is told the patient has died. HonorBridge then offers the option of organ donation. Donation only happens with the family's permission.



Medical Evaluation

HonorBridge reviews the patient's medical history and works with the hospital team to see which organs can be donated.



HonorBridge and the surgical recovery teams begin organ recovery



Organ Matching & Recovery

HonorBridge uses the national waitlist to offer donated organs to transplant centers with matched patients. Once an organ is accepted, it is recovered, preserved, and sent to the hospital for transplant.