



HONOR WALK

GUIDANCE FOR HOSPITAL STAFF

Background:

Honor walks are established to provide families of intended organ donors, as well as the medical care teams, the opportunity to honor the generosity of the donor for sharing the gifts of life. These occur when the donor is transported from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to the Operating Room (OR) at the time of organ recovery. [Hospital Name] staff lead the practice of Honor Walks for those families wishing to participate, with the support of LifeSource.

Staff Support:

An Honor Walk allows hospital staff the opportunity to support donor families and honor the generosity of the donor. Staff are invited to come and silently line the pathway from the ICU to the OR to pay their respects to the donor and lend support to the family during their journey. Hospital staff members are asked to be present in the moment with use of electronics restricted to only those necessary for patient care. A [Hospital staff in charge of coordinating Honor Walk] will notify units of the time and location of the Honor Walk. Note that delays are common and timing changes may occur.

Participation:

Families express interest and provide consent before the Honor Walk. Special consent is required because when the Honor Walk occurs, protection of the patient and family's privacy cannot be guaranteed. Participation is completely voluntary for both families and staff members.

Media:

Staff are forbidden from taking photos or video out of respect for the donor family. However, the family may photograph and/or videotape the Honor Walk. Staff may be featured in photos or videos, which may be posted to social media. Staff members who do not want to appear in photos or videos should not attend the Honor Walk as their privacy cannot be guaranteed. [Hospital name] may also share the video on social media with family permission.

Notification:

Patient safety is always first. Hospital staff members are asked to obtain approval from their manager and coordinate adequate coverage with their units to attend the Honor Walk.

The Honor Walk is a symbol of unity and compassion for Families, Donors, Recipients, and their Care Teams.

LifeSource

ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION

www.life-source.org

