Unplanned DCD Pause Process

Purpose

The Unplanned DCD Pause Process provides a standardized approach for an unexpected suspension of the DCD process due to a difference of opinion as to whether a patient meets the hospital's criteria for withdrawal of life sustaining therapies. An unplanned DCD pause is not intended to address issues or questions related to authorization for donation. The goal is to improve safeguards for patients who are potential DCD donors, as well as ensure appropriate reassessment and collaboration between healthcare teams and LifeSource staff while maintaining support for donor families.

Who can initiate a pause?

- Patient or their agent
- Any Hospital Care Team member involved in the care of the Donor
- LifeSource staff
- Accepting Transplant Center or 3rd party procurement/preservation staff

When to Initiate a Pause

- Significant changes in the donor clinical status occur
- Hospital care plans change unexpectedly
- Additional information or consultation is needed before proceeding

Process Overview

1. Once a pause has been requested, LifeSource must:
   - **a.** Suspend the DCD process
   - **b.** Convene all existing stakeholders, including the individual who requested the unplanned DCD pause, to consider the rationale for requesting the pause and actions to be taken to address the unplanned DCD pause
   - **c.** Collaborate with the Hospital care team to determine if the patient still meets criteria for withdraw of life sustaining therapies

2. LifeSource will stop the case IF:
   - **a.** The patient is determined to no longer meet criteria for withdraw of life sustaining care OR
   - **b.** The Healthcare team and/or patient's agent determine to not withdraw life sustaining care

3. LifeSource may resume the Case IF
   - **a.** The patient is found to be a candidate for withdrawal of life sustaining care AND
   - **b.** The patient's agent and healthcare team elect to continue with withdraw of life sustaining care
   - **c.** If the case continues, LifeSource must gain acknowledgement from all parties involved including any Transplant centers who may accept an organ

Questions? Discuss with your *LifeSource Coordinator* or *Liaison*, or call **1-800-24-SHARE**.
Or scan the QR code for more information.