

6. ORGAN AND TISSUE PROCUREMENT

- 6.1. Organs and tissues shall be procured preferably from cadaveric donors. However, where appropriate organs and tissues from living donors may be used.
- 6.2. Organ and tissue procurement from living donors:
 - 6.2.1. Competent adult living persons can donate organ and/or tissue but they shall preferably be related to the recipients and donor consent must be given freely and altruistically without coercion or any commercial inducement.
 - 6.2.2. No organ and/or tissue shall be removed from the body of a living minor for the purpose of transplantation except in the case of regenerative tissues.

- 6.2.3. Prior authorisation from the Unrelated Transplant Approval Committee (UTAC) shall be obtained before any unrelated live organ donation. Such donation must fulfil the following criteria except in the case of regenerative tissues;
- 6.2.3.1. No available cadaveric donor;
 - 6.2.3.2. No compatible donor from genetically-related or emotionally related family members and
 - 6.2.3.3. No other alternative treatment.
- 6.2.4. In the case of organ donation, all living donors shall be counselled by donor advocates regarding the risks, benefits and possible consequences. Donor advocates shall be independent of the organ procurement and transplantation team.
- 6.2.5. Prisoners awaiting execution and mentally disabled person shall be prohibited from live donation.

- 6.2.6. Under life saving circumstances, live donation of organs from prisoners may be considered for immediate relatives subjected to approval from relevant authorities.
- 6.2.7. Organ and tissue procurement and transplantation from living donors shall only be performed in accredited centres by credentialed personnel.
- 6.2.8. Accredited centres performing organ procurement from related and unrelated living donors shall have written guidelines and standard operating procedures. These shall include the following:
 - 6.2.8.1. Criteria for eligibility to be a donor.
 - 6.2.8.2. Detailed donor evaluation including psychosocial and medical assessment.
 - 6.2.8.3. Plan for life-long donor follow-up.

6.3. Organ and tissue procurement from cadaveric donor:

6.3.1. Organisation of cadaveric donation activity;

6.3.1.1. There shall be a dedicated unit at the national level to manage and coordinate all aspects of organ and tissue procurement from cadaveric donors. This unit shall be known as **Transplantation Procurement Management Unit (TPMU)**. The responsibilities of this unit include;

- a To coordinate organ and tissue procurement in any part of the country with the local hospital unit managing the donor;
- b To liaise with organ and tissue transplantation teams;
- c To organise efficient and safe transport of organ and tissue from donor hospital to recipient hospital;

- d To develop guidelines, standard operating procedures and standard criteria for donor referral, donor management, organ and tissue procurement, storage and transport as well as disposal of any unused organ and tissue;
- e To conduct public education and promotion of organ and tissue donation and
- f To provide regular data on organ and tissue donation activities.

6.3.1.2. At each identified hospital there shall be a **Tissue Organ Procurement (TOP) Team** consisting of trained personnel who shall be responsible for the identification and management of the potential donor including getting consent from the next of kin, evaluation for donation, organising the procurement, storage and transport of the organs and tissues and speedy return of the donor's remains to the next of kin.

- 6.3.2. All potential cases for cadaveric donations shall be made known to the local Tissue Organ Procurement (TOP) Team.
- 6.3.3. All deaths shall be considered for possible tissue donations.
- 6.3.4. The TOP Team shall provide support and follow-up care to the family of the donor for an appropriate duration.
- 6.3.5. Death certification for potential cadaveric donors shall be carried out by registered medical practitioners who are independent of the organs and/or tissues transplantation teams.

- 6.3.6. In cases where potential cadaveric donors' remains are being held under the Criminal Procedure Code for post-mortem or coronal inquest, prior written consent from the magistrate has to be obtained before any organ and/or tissue procurement is carried out, in accordance with the existing legislation.
- 6.3.7. Consent for donation can be obtained either from the deceased's expressed wish made through the organ and/or tissue donor pledge card and/or from the next of kin.

6.4. Unused Organs and Tissues;

- 6.4.1. The next of kin shall be informed by the TOP Team if the organs and/or tissues are not used and the next of kin shall be consulted on the method of disposal.
- 6.4.2. It is mandatory to obtain consent from the next of kin if the organs and/or tissues are to be used for purposes other than transplantation.
- 6.4.3. Any incidence of unused organ and/or tissue shall be investigated and reported to the NTTC.
- 6.4.4. Any unused organ and/or tissue which are not claimed by the next of kin shall be disposed with dignity in accordance with the guidelines on disposal of human materials.