



BRIDGING STATEMENTS

DISCUSSING NEXT STEPS

“We (I) have given you a lot of information to process. If/when you have any questions and/or are ready to discuss next steps, I’ll introduce you to someone who can discuss additional options with you.”

IF THE FAMILY INITIATES THE DONATION DISCUSSION

“This is a very important topic and I will arrange for someone who is an expert in this area to come and speak with you about it.”

INTRODUCING A LiveOnNY COORDINATOR

“We work closely with LiveOnNY who work with families in similar situations to yours. They can provide you information on additional options for you and your family. I think you should take the time to speak with them. I will come back in a few moments to introduce them to you.”

IF LiveOnNY NEEDS TO DISCUSS DONATION BY PHONE

“Someone will be reaching out to you by phone to discuss additional options. I feel this is a meaningful conversation for you to have.” OR if LiveOnNY coordinator must speak to them immediately, “I have someone on the phone that can speak with you about additional options for you and your family, I think you should take some time to speak to them. We will set up the conference room so you can talk with them over the phone.”

IF THE FAMILY DECIDES TO WITHDRAW LIFE SUSTAINING THERAPIES DURING THE GRAVE PROGNOSIS CONVERSATION

“Prior to moving forward, there is one more conversation to be had as we want to ensure that you have been made aware of all potential options at this time. I have someone named _____ that can speak to you now.” (This can be done by phone or in-person)

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT BRAIN DEATH TESTING

Including all these points in your discussion with the family can help them understand that Brain Death is Death.

- ▶ We are starting a process which includes testing for the most basic brain functions to see if your loved one is brain dead (or has died).
- ▶ There are two ways that a person can die, either when their heart stops or when they have irreversibly lost all functions of their brain.
- ▶ Brain death occurs when blood and oxygen cannot flow to the brain. Without blood and oxygen, all brain function stops, even the most primitive, life-sustaining reflexes such as the ability to breathe.
- ▶ Once brain death is declared, it means that your loved one has died.

Allowing family members to observe brain death testing may provide for a better understanding and acceptance of the diagnosis.

NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

- ▶ We have completed our testing and confirmed that your loved one has died.
- ▶ Family should be provided with official date and time of death.
- ▶ Mention loss/death of loved one by name (due to non-recoverable injury to the brain); express condolences for their loss.
- ▶ Please take some time to be with your family and loved one. We will discuss the next steps with you soon.

It is vital that families understand that Brain Death is how their loved one died.

Our goal is to ensure that every patient/family is aware of their ability/opportunity to save the lives of others through the gift of organ donation. It is tremendously important that these options are presented in a timely and compassionate way each and every time.