



POLICY ON ORGAN DONATION

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 This document is a policy of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and relates to organ donation and the care of potential organ donors in the emergency department.
- 1.2 The policy is applicable to emergency departments in general.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 ACEM supports the principle of human organ transplantation from recently deceased individuals to living human recipients.
- 2.2 Emergency physicians should identify patients who are potential organ donors. This process must not influence decisions regarding resuscitation.

3. PROCEDURE AND ACTIONS

- 3.1 Fellowship of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine should be included in government regulation as being a recognised critical care medical qualification, that automatically covers the holder with the authority to perform the specialist medical officer determination of brain death if and when required.
- 3.2 The position of "Designated Officer", as specified, is an administrative position that exists to authorise removal of organs. The role of "Designated Officer" should not be imposed upon emergency physicians without their consent.
- 3.3 The Intensive Care Unit, rather than the Emergency Department, is the appropriate facility for the diagnosis of brain death and the subsequent organ donation process.
- 3.4 The maintenance of a potential donor for organ procurement should never compromise the care of other patients.