

Pathway to deceased donation

For someone to become a deceased donor, he or she has to die in very specific circumstances. The opportunities for deceased donation remain limited as only about 1%-2% of deaths in hospital are eligible to donate. The deceased donation pathway shows the key steps in the chain of care that can lead to actual transplants and each step along the path must be optimized to minimize missed donation opportunities. Each step along the pathway represents an opportunity for maximizing organ utilization.

Definitions

Total population	The total population of Canada.
Deaths	All deaths that occurred in Canada. Death refers to the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after a live birth has taken place. Still births are excluded.
Hospital deaths	Deaths that were determined in hospital, which includes deaths in an acute care facility including emergency departments (ED), intensive care units (ICU), wards, special care units. Excludes long term care facilities, deaths on scene or during transport after failed cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
Ventilated deaths	Persons who died while on positive pressure ventilation (invasive or non-invasive) at any time during the hospital episode during which the patient died.
Brain injured ventilated deaths	Deaths of brain injured ventilated patients.
Potential donors	Persons with a brain injury leading to death, who received mechanical ventilation at or near the time of death.
Referred potential donors	A potential donor who was referred to an organ donation organization (ODO).
Eligible donors	A referred potential donor who is suitable for a consent discussion (to be approached for organ donation).
Approached eligible donors	An eligible donor who is approached for donation (a consent discussion is held).
Consented donors	A person for whom consent was obtained for organ donation.
Actual donors	A consented donor from whom at least one organ was recovered for the purpose of transplantation.
Utilized donors	A consented donor who had at least one organ transplanted.