



## ORGAN DONOR CARD SEARCH

APPROVED:

  
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### 1. Definitions

- 1.1 Reasonable Search - A brief attempt by EMS field personnel to locate documentation that may identify a patient as a potential organ donor, or one who has refused to make an anatomical gift. This search shall be limited to a wallet or purse that is on or near the individual to locate a driver's license or other identification card with this information. This requirement may be met by asking a family member, if one is present, about the presence of an organ donor card. A reasonable search shall not take precedent over patient care/treatment.
- 1.2 Imminent Death - A condition wherein illness or injuries are of such severity that in the opinion of EMS personnel, death is likely to occur before the patient arrives at the receiving hospital. For purposes of this policy, this definition does not include any conscious patient regardless of the severity of illness or injury.

### 2. Procedure

- 2.1 When EMS field personnel encounter an unconscious adult patient for whom it appears death is imminent (that is, death prior to the arrival of the patient at a receiving facility), they shall attempt a "reasonable search" of the patient's belongings to determine if the individual carries information indicating the patient's status as an organ donor. This search must be done in the presence of a witness, preferably a public safety officer.
- 2.2 Treatment and transport of the patient remains the highest priority for field personnel. This search shall not interfere with patient care or transport.
- 2.3 Field personnel shall notify the receiving hospital if organ donor information is discovered.
- 2.4 Any organ donor document that is discovered should be transported to the receiving hospital with the patient unless it is requested by the

Issue Date: April 2002  
Effective Date: April 2002  
Revised Date: April 2012, Oct 2015  
Next Review Date: Oct 2018

investigating law enforcement officer. In the event that no transport is made, any document should remain with the patient.

- 2.5 Field personnel should briefly note the results of the search, notification of hospital, and witness name(s), on the PCR.
- 2.6 No search is to be made by EMS personnel after the patient has expired.
- 2.7 If a member of the patient's immediate family objects to the search for an organ donor document at the scene, their response to a question about the patient's organ donation wishes may be considered to satisfy the requirement.

Issue Date: April 2002  
Effective Date: April 2002  
Revised Date: April 2012, Oct 2015  
Next Review Date: Oct 2018