

Bedside Nurse DCD Guidelines

Thank you so much for being available to help our team save lives! We could not do this without you, so please know how much we appreciate you and your team. In order to prevent any miscommunications, we have put together this handy reference for you to refer to at any time during this process. If you have further questions, please reach out to any member of the Lifesharing team so we can assist you as best as we can.

Prior to Withdrawal:

- If the patient is being transferred to PACU, the goal is to transfer approximately 30 minutes prior to withdrawal time.
- Minimize all cords and pumps. Remove SCDs and excess pillows/blankets. Discontinue unneeded medications/interventions upon LS coordinator's instruction (ex: clamp EVD, disconnect chest tube, etc.)
- Ensure you have more than enough comfort medications to last the duration of the withdrawal period (≥ 90 minutes). Bring syringes, needles, flushes, etc. to draw up & administer all medications.
- Have heparin dose (30,000-50,000 units) via IVP ready. Dosage of heparin depends on the patient/organs being procured. LS coordinator will prompt you when to administer (5 minutes prior to extubation in PACU).
- Complete the hospital death packet as much as possible. Bring to PACU during transfer. LS coordinator can assist with any questions.

At Withdrawal:

- Settle patient, hook up to a monitor visible to LS coordinator. LS timekeeper will be recording vital signs every minute after extubation.
- Set monitor on comfort mode if possible.
- Know where to disconnect IVs, monitoring equipment, and bed PRIOR to extubation. Place A-line on the bed.
- Administer the dose of heparin upon LS coordinator's instruction (5 minutes prior to extubation).
- Continue comfort care treatment.
- Once cardiac standstill takes place and the patient has been pronounced, disconnect EVERYTHING. Un-attach all IV lines and monitoring equipment. We will transfer the patient as quickly as possible to OR once cardiac death occurs.
- Assist in transfer to OR (don't forget to get scrubs if you need them!).

Please remember, above all else, the goal is the comfort of the patient and the family. We believe that every patient deserves a dignified death and IF donation happens, that is a bonus.

Thank you again for your collaboration with our team, you are so appreciated!