

17-0103 - Organ Donor Information

AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 7152.5 (b)

PURPOSE

To comply with state legislation, which requires EMS field personnel to search for organ donor information on all patients for whom death appears imminent.

DEFINITIONS**Reasonable Search**

A brief attempt by emergency service 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 will be limited to a wallet or purse that is on or near an individual to locate a driver's license or other identification card with this information.

This requirement may be met by asking a family member about the presence of an organ donor card.

A reasonable search shall not take precedence over patient care/treatment.

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 facility. For purposes of this policy, this definition does not include any conscious patient regardless of the severity of illness or injury.

POLICY

Existing law provides that any individual who is at least 18 years of age may make an anatomical gift, and sets forth procedures for making that gift, including signing a donor card that may be attached to a driver's license or identification card.

BLS/ALS PROCEDURE

1. In the case of an unconscious patient for whom death appears imminent, the prehospital provider will make a reasonable search of the patient belongings to determine if the patient carries information indicating the status as an organ donor. This search will not interfere with care or transport.
2. Field personnel will notify the receiving hospital if organ donor information is discovered. Any organ donor document that is discovered should be transported to the receiving hospital with the patient unless the investigating law enforcement authority requests it. In the event that no transport is made, any organ donor document should remain with the patient.
3. Documentation of search results should be briefly noted in the patient care record.