

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION



Position Statement	End of Life Care for Potential Organ and/or Tissue Donors
Number of Pages	1
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Past Revision Dates	November 2009, November 2007, February 2002, June 1996, January 1990
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Issue

The Emergency Nurse is often one of the first health care professionals to provide care for the potential donor patient and family. Awareness of organ donation allows the Emergency Nurse to anticipate and provide care for both the patient and their family.

NENA Position

NENA supports the CNA position statement “Providing nursing care at the end of life” and believes the Emergency Nurse must be aware of ethical dilemmas, legal and medical criteria involved in the donor process.

NENA believes agencies are responsible to develop policies and procedures to aid the Emergency Nurse in this vital role and encourages agencies to provide support resources.

NENA believes families must be given the opportunity to choose organ or tissue donation if the situation arises.

NENA believes nurses should have the opportunity to participate in education for organ and tissue donation.

Rationale

The Emergency Nurse often provides end of life care for the potential donor and their family.

References

Mullins, KJ. (2010). Organ, tissue donation saved record number of lives in 2009. *Digital Journal*. Retrieved November 9, 2014 from www.digitaljournal.com/article/290837

Canadian Nurses Association. (2008). Position statement: Providing nursing care at the end of life. Retrieved November 9, 2014 from www.cna-aiic.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf/en/ps96_end_of_life_e.pdf