

# The Donation Process

**The process of donation involves many factors and relies on the support of the donor's family, the LifeSource coordinator, and the hospital and medical staff.**

## **Emergency Room**

Critically ill patients are transported to the ER where life-saving measures begin.

## **Intensive Care Unit**

A doctor does special tests to see how much damage is done to the brain and body. The medical team continues advanced life-support treatment.

## **Death**

Some patients deteriorate to death. Donation can only proceed after death has been declared.

## **Authorization**

A LifeSource donor coordinator checks to see if the patient has made a decision about donation. If the patient made the decision to be an organ and tissue donor LifeSource works with their family to support and honor that decision. LifeSource recognizes the right of every individual to make a personal decision about donation and respects the importance of honoring those wishes to extend the gift of life. If the individual had not made a decision about donation, the next-of-kin will be asked to provide authorization. Once there is authorization for donation, the family can make funeral plans. At this point, LifeSource begins the donation process. There is no cost to the donor family.

## **Organ Placement**

Organs are matched with the patient on the national transplant waiting list who is the best match.

## **Organ and Tissue Recovery**

Each recipient's transplant team comes to the hospital to recover the donor's organ for their patient. Like other operations, this surgery takes place in an operating room. Tissue is recovered after organ recovery surgery is completed.

## **Transportation**

After organ recovery, organs must be transplanted rapidly. The organs are transported to the transplant center via the quickest and most appropriate means. Donated tissue is sent to one of LifeSource's tissue partners for further screening and sterilization before transplantation.

## **Follow-Up**

The donor's family receives a letter telling them where organs and tissues went and some information about who received them. Names of donors and recipients are kept confidential. A Donor Family Services Coordinator provides support, grief information and referrals.