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The Gift of Life: Optimizing Organ Donation through Collaboration
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Abstract:
Presently 100,000 people hope for the gift of a lifesaving organ. The Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative was developed to raise donation rates to 75% of eligible organ donors. One Magnet® hospital utilizes a collaborative team approach as a means of meeting this expectation. The main goal of patient care is saving lives, but when an injury is non-survivable nurses and providers notify the organ procurement office (OPO). Providers, nurses and the OPO Coordinator meet with family to discuss donation. Members of the team meet daily to discuss next steps. A computer order set was developed to assure standard practice when caring for an organ donor. This collaborative approach resulted in the institution being granted gold and silver medals of honor for organ donation by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Significance:
- More than 100,000 men, women and children currently need life-saving organ transplants
- Every 10 minutes another name is added to the national organ transplant waiting list
- An average of 18 people die each day from lack of available organs

Objectives:
1. Discuss potential neurological conditions appropriate for early referrals to an Organ Procurement Office.
2. Describe the content of daily team meetings to promote a cohesive team approach to organ donation.
3. Review standard order sets initiated upon obtaining organ donation consent.

References: