More For Families

Presented by:

Gundersen Health System – La Crosse
St. Vincent Hospital – Green Bay
Mercy Health System - Janesville
Gundersen Health System
La Crosse

Critical Care
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Disclosure

- Resolve Through Sharing (RTS®) Bereavement Services is referenced, which is a Gundersen Health System nationally recognized program
Demographics

- 33 year old Hmong female declared brain dead secondary to a ruptured aneurysm
- Significant other for 9 years
- 2 children
- Patient was 17 weeks pregnant-baby boy was spontaneously born

- Hmong interpreter was used to request donation with brothers
- Significant other in favor of donation, but would support family decision
- Family (3 brothers) declined organ donation due to cultural beliefs
Family Memories of the Baby

- A blessing was done with pastoral care
- Father held his son
- Photos taken with father and son
- Baby was wrapped in a silk shroud and placed in a purple casket

- Foot molds made
- Written blessing
- Baby ring
Infant Memory Boxes and Pictures
Lasting Memories

- Mother’s fingerprint charms for the living children
- Medical media took photos of living daughter’s hands with her mother’s
- Living son took pictures with his mother
- Patient’s hand prints with poem given to significant other
- Memory box for the significant other
  - Hair locks
  - Jewelry mementos
- Placenta saved for the family to be buried with the mother (Hmong culture)
Hand Photos
The death of a baby is like a stone cast into the stillness of a quiet pool; the concentric ripples of despair sweep out in all directions, affecting many, many people.

John DeFrain
Author and University Editor
Staff Support

- Utilized the OB/GYN APN
- Child Life Specialists for the two children
  - Books
  - Resources
  - Activity room
- Medical Media took photos of the patient with her children and significant other
Pastoral Care

- Notified prior to arrival
- Trained Designated Requestors
- Rounds daily in ICU
- Easily accessed by RNs

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
Flag Raisings

• Started as a way to connect with families during their grieving process

• Pastoral Care owns the flag raising process

• One family’s story...
Worth the Wait
Family Care Ideas

**Grief Cart** - call Pastoral Care

**Order bereavement basket** (snacks)

**Discuss Phases of Donation handout**
sent over by UW OTD

**Take photos at bedside**
- Patient’s hands/family members holding hands
- Patient lying with loved one (snuggling, hugging)
- Feet (for infants)

**Poster board**
- Patient roles & attributes
  - patient’s name in center, have family fill in their ideas - (example: father, best dad ever, Packer fan, grill master, loved to read, child’s bucking bronco, bow hunter)
- Artwork from children
- Photos - have family members/visitors bring in photos

**Handprints or fingerprints**
- Ink – can make several copies easily
- Clay – 1 or 2 per case

**Children**
- Clay handprints to decorate
- Teddy bears - children can write notes to loved one, place inside bear
- Books - reading and coloring

**Misc.**
- Memory jar - people write memories on paper and place in jar. Memories read at funeral home, or by family at a later date.
- Journal of visitors - notes to family & memories of patient
- Lock of hair in memory box
- Funeral
  - Choose funeral home
  - Obituary suggestions - what they like to do, organ & tissue donor (journal of memories & poster board of attributes helps greatly with this)
  - Pins & bracelets, other items offered at funeral home (UW OTD will send)
- Moment of silence for OR (may also be read prior departure to OR) - family to write
- Flag raising ceremony
- Sympathy card signed by staff
Grief Cart Contents

- Grief Literature
  - Book: *A Time To Mourn, A Time To Dance*
  - Brochures
  - Our Grief folders
  - Teen Grief folders
- Donation literature
- CD Player & CDs
- Basket of kids games
- Coloring books
- Baby blanket
- Grief blanket
- Grief pillows
- Tissue packs

- Model-making kits for handprints (in a basket)
  - Clipboard
  - Waxed paper
  - Rolling pins
  - Jewels, letters & pins
- Basket of devotional reading
Mercy Health System
Janesville

Eric Abbott, RN, BSN
The Flag

- A Symbol
- Represents
- Communicates
The Action Hoisting the Flag

- **Symbolic**
  - Communicates

- **Timing**
  - Start of an event
  - Achievement
  - Transition

- **Participants**
Implementation

• Included as a phase of donation
  ▫ Process poster
• Transitions
  ▫ Brain death vs. DCD
• Logistics
  ▫ Facilities
  ▫ Roles
Steps to Honoring the Donation Journey

Organ Donation Process

1. Blood Tests
2. Medical and Social History of ______
3. Diagnostic Tests for ______
4. Search for Organ Recipients
5. ______ is Scheduled to go to Operating Room for Organ Donation at _____ Time
6. Organ Recovery Team Arrives and is Available to Meet with You
7. ______ Goes to Operating Room for Organ Donation
8. Moment of Silence with Surgical Team for ______
9. ______’s Organs are Recovered
10. ______’s Organs go to Transplant Centers for Transplantation
11. ______ Goes to Funeral Home

“Without the organ donor, there is no story, no hope, no transplant. But when there is an organ donor, life springs from death, sorrow turns to hope and a terrible loss becomes a gift.” — (United Network for Organ Sharing)
From Rough Start to Future Success

• The First Time
  ▫ The family
  ▫ Behind the scenes

• Future developments
  ▫ Overhead tone
  ▫ Donor remembrance ceremony
Lessons Learned

• Guidelines instead of Policy
  ▫ Stay flexible and communicate
  ▫ Individualize to family

• Early notification to facilities staff
  ▫ Inclement weather plan

• Easier to ask for forgiveness than permission
THANK YOU!

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