

Questions to Ask Your O.P.O.



The following questions are a guide to assist you and your family as you contact your local organ procurement organization to discuss potential neonatal donation options.

- 1) "Do you have a neonate program or do you have someone specific to help with neonate cases? If so, whom should I talk to?"
- First person you spoke with _____
 - Person you need with speak to in the future _____

2) Explain your situation (your baby's diagnosis, your due date, and what type of donation you would like to participate in). Let them know you have several questions to ask.

- 3) "What type of donation options can you assist with?"
- Organ donation for transplant Yes / No
 - Tissue donation for transplant Yes / No
 - Organ/tissue donation for research Yes / No

Depending on the answer, ask follow up questions below:

- 4) "What are the requirements for neonatal **organ donation for transplant**?"
(Typically, neonates do not qualify for this type of transplant donation, but it is still good to ask.)
- a) If they say they are not able to assist in **organ donation for transplant** move to number 5.
- b) If they are willing to consider **organ donation for transplant**, get the following information:
- What is the minimum gestation age? _____
 - What is the minimum weight? _____
 - What medical interventions might be required? (For example: intubation) _____
 - When would those medical interventions need to be put in place? _____
 - Which organ(s) they would be willing to recover? _____
 - How soon after the baby passes away will the recovery surgery need to take place? _____

- 5) "What are the requirements for neonatal **tissue donation for transplant**?"
(Heart valves or knee cartilage are examples of tissue that can frequently be used from neonates)
- a) If they say they do not work with **tissue donation for transplant**, ask if there is a local tissue bank or other organization that you should contact, then move to number 6.
- b) If they are willing to recover **tissue donation for transplant**, get the following information:
- What is the minimum gestation age? _____
 - What is the minimum weight? (Are they strict when working with anencephalic babies?) _____
 - What medical interventions might be required? (For example: intubation)? _____
 - When would those medical interventions need to be put in place? _____
 - Which tissue(s) they would be willing to recover? _____
 - How soon after the baby passes away will the recovery surgery need to take place? _____
 - Will the baby need to be born alive? Yes / No

- 6) "Are you willing to recover **organ/tissue donation for research**?" (A wide range of options exists.)
- a) If they say they do not recover for research, or they are not familiar with donation for research, ask them to contact IIAM (International Institute for the Advancement of Medicine) and discuss options that currently exist through IIAM's Neonatal Donor Program.



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- b) If they are willing to recover for **organ/tissue for research**, ask if they would recover only if a transplant donation recovery occurs at the same time, or if they are willing to recover for research ONLY if the baby does not meet transplant requirements. (Some OPOs will only recover for research in combination with organs/tissue for transplant.)
- c) If they are willing to recover **organ/tissue for research**, get the following information:
- What is the minimum gestation age? _____
 - What is the minimum weight? _____
 - What medical interventions might be required? (For example: intubation) _____
 - When would those medical interventions need to be put in place? _____
 - Which organ(s) and/or tissue(s) would they be willing to recover? _____
 - How soon after the baby passes away will the recovery surgery need to take place? _____
 - Will the baby need to be born alive? Yes / No
 - *If interested*: What type of research will happen with each organ/tissue? _____
- 7) For any and all of the donations you should also ask:
- Where will the recovery surgery take place? _____
 - After the recovery surgery, will I be able to receive my baby back after the recovery surgery is finished? Yes / No
 - If I do not want to receive my baby back after surgery, can they arrange for a funeral home to pick up my baby after the surgery is finished? Yes / No
- 8) Ask if they would require a C-section, scheduled induction, or if they would let you go naturally? (Some OPOs will only work with families who have C-sections or inductions.)
- C-section Yes / No
 - Scheduled induction Yes / No
 - Natural birth Yes / No
- 9) Fill out the *Neonatal Donation Preliminary Information Document* found on our resource page. Tell the OPO that you have a form filled out with most of the information they will need. Ask what is the best way to get the form to them and who should receive the form.
- How to send form: _____
- Who to send the form to: _____
- 10) Ask if there is anything special they need in order to contact your doctor. (If you need a consent form, feel free to use the *Request to Contact Organ Procurement Organization Form* also found on our resource page)
- 11) If you are going to move forward with some form of donation, ask when you should meet with them to have the medical social interview and blood draw for lab work. (This is required for all donations to make sure there is no reason to rule out organs/tissue prior to donation.) Explain that you would like to do this PRIOR to giving birth.
- Date of future meeting: _____

