

<b>Title: Brain Death Declaration</b>	
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<b>Discrete Operating Unit/Facility</b> Banner Baywood Medical Center Banner Behavioral Health Hospital Banner Boswell Medical Center Banner Casa Grande Medical Center Banner Churchill Community Hospital Banner Del E Webb Medical Center Banner Desert Medical Center Banner Estrella Medical Center Banner Fort Collins Medical Center Banner Gateway Medical Center Banner Goldfield Medical Center Banner Heart Hospital Banner Ironwood Medical Center Banner Lassen Medical Center Banner Ocotillo Medical Center Banner Payson Medical Center Banner Thunderbird Medical Center Banner--University Medical Center Phoenix Banner--University Medical Center South Banner--University Medical Center Tucson East Morgan County Hospital McKee Medical Center North Colorado Medical Center Ogallala Community Hospital Page Hospital Platte County Memorial Hospital Sterling Regional Medical Center Torrington Community Hospital Washakie Medical Center Wyoming Medical Center	

## Introduction

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### Purpose / Population

1. **Purpose:**
    - To define a process to determine and declare brain death.
  2. **Population:**
    - Adult patients
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### Definitions

**Brain Death:** the irreversible loss of all functions of the entire brain including the brainstem as determined by the demonstration of complete loss of consciousness (coma), brainstem reflexes, and the independent capacity for ventilator drive (apnea), in the absence of any factors that imply possible reversibility.

**Death:** Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions and of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem.

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## Policy

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### Policy Statements

1. Brain death should be determined by a Neurologist, Neurosurgeon, or critical care specialist/trauma surgeon with adequate specific experience and knowledge. It is recommended that physicians have completed either a BD/DNC simulation or an online certification by the Neurocritical Care Society. All clinicians performing these evaluations (should) be attending physicians. Integration of trainees and advanced practice providers is determined by the appropriate department (Neurology, Neurosurgery, Critical Care, Trauma), with attending physician oversight.
  2. In cases where two examinations are required by law, a qualified Physician conducting the initial exam may not conduct the second exam. The second evaluation must be performed by another qualified Physician. There is no physiological reason to require an observation period between these 2 evaluations.
  3. Declaration of Brain Death may not be made by a physician involved with care of a transplant recipient.
  4. Brain Death confirmation requires:
    - A bedside physical examination demonstrating absence of all the brainstem reflexes, coma or unresponsiveness to noxious stimuli including no purposeful or reflexic motor responses derived from brain function
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- AND a lack of spontaneous breathing (via apnea testing); OR in clinical contexts where apnea testing is not safe or feasible, confirmatory diagnostic studies are indicated to determine Brain Death

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## **Policy, Continued**

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### **Procedural Documentation**

1. Adult Brain Death Evaluation / Declaration Note
  2. Record of Death
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## **Other Information**

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### **References**

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## Other Information, Continued

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**Other related policies / procedures**

- [Anatomic Organ Donations: Organ, Tissue, and Eye Procurement](#), #588
  - [Consent Policy](#), #1329
  - [Donation after Cardiac Death](#), #625
  - Health Care Directives
  - Pronouncement of Death
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**Keywords and keyword phrases**

- Apnea
  - Apnea Test
  - Brain
  - Brain Death
  - Critical care
  - Death
  - ICU
  - Neurology
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