Eye Donation Referral Process

- Call 1-800-GIFT4NY (1-800-443-8469 to refer all deaths and imminent deaths within one hour of expiration.

- The call center will determine whether the patient is eligible for organ, tissue and/or eye donation.

- For eye and cornea donation, there is a 12-hour limit between time of death and recovery.
If the decedent is eligible to donate eyes only, then The Eye-Bank will call to confirm information about medical history and next of kin, i.e., name, relationship and telephone number.
Eye Donation Referral Process

- If patient is found eligible for eye donation, The Eye-Bank will contact patient’s family and discuss eye donation.

- If patient was registered as a donor, his/her wishes will be honored. Otherwise, family may make this determination on patient’s behalf.
Eye Donation Referral Process

- Once consent is obtained, The Eye-Bank will come to the hospital unit to review the medical chart.

- Recovery of ocular tissue typically takes place in the morgue.
To facilitate donation, HIPAA regulations allow hospitals to provide private health information about decedents to The Eye-Bank.
Donation Criteria

- Age limit is 1 to 75 years of age for transplantation.
- Over 75 years of age may be accepted for medical education and research.
- Absolute contraindications for eye donation include:
  - HIV / AIDS
  - Hepatitis B and C (viral)
  - Septicemia
  - Organic Brain Syndrome
  - Slow Viruses, e.g., rabies, CJD
Death from cancer may meet eligibility for eye donation, excluding leukemia, myeloma and lymphoma.

Tissue that is not suitable for transplant due to sepsis, leukemia, myeloma or lymphoma, may be used for research purposes. Research eyes are used by medical scientists to find treatment and cures for blinding eye diseases.
Donation Criteria

Corneal tissue is evaluated for transplant suitability more closely after recovery in The Eye-Bank Laboratory using slit lamp biomicroscopy and specular microscopy.
If the patient is on a ventilator apply:

- Artificial tears (Sytane, Refresh, Gen Teal, IsotoTears, others), 2 drops in each eye q2h.

- Lacri-lube ophthalmic ointment (lanolin/mineral, oil/petrolatum) in each eye q2h.
Post Mortem Care

- Close the eyelids after death to prevent the corneas from drying out.
Post Mortem Care

- Close the eyelids
- Send the body to the morgue.
- If you know donation may occur, elevate the decedent’s head before sending the body to the morgue.
Eye- Donation Facts

- Most religions support organ, tissue and eye donation.
- There is no cost to the donor family.
- Donation should not affect funeral arrangements.
Eye Donor

Jerry Orbach gave his heart and soul to acting, and the gift of sight to two New Yorkers.

You knew Jerry Orbach for his roles on Law and Order and on Broadway. But for two New Yorkers, his greatest role was that of an eye donor. Years ago, Jerry decided to donate his eyes. So when he passed away, he could give the beautiful gift of sight.

There are thousands of New Yorkers who are losing their sight, and they are depending on you to help. Be an eye donor.

Call the Eye-Bank of New York, or sign up online. It only takes a minute. Promise the gift of sight to a fellow New Yorker. Do it today.

THE EYE-BANK OF NEW YORK
See what your eyes can do for others.

212-742-9000
www.eyedonation.org

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The World's First Eye Bank

THE EYE-BANK
for Sight Restoration, Inc.
“Our dad gave his love of music to 10,000 students and the gift of sight to one New Yorker.”

Milton Williams was a gifted music teacher for over 43 years, right here in New York. And his greatest lesson was that of being an eye donor. When he passed away, he gave the beautiful gift of sight. It only takes a minute to sign up to be an eye donor. Do it today.

Chris and Vanessa Williams

212-742-9000
www.eyedonation.org
Summary

- Call 1-800-GIFT4NY within 1 hour after every death or all imminent brain death.

- HIPAA provision allows hospitals to provide private health information to The Eye-Bank.

- Close eyelids to protect corneas from dryness. Add Lacri-lube or similar solution if patient is on a ventilator.
Giving the Gift of Sight

New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

As of July 2008, NY State has a first person consent registry. If you were registered before July 2008 re-register by renewing or applying for NYS driver license or non-driver ID or by completing a Donor Enrollment Form. Visit one of these websites:

- www.eyedonation.org
- www.nyhealth.gov
- www.donatelifenys.net