**CLINICAL CUES**

Clinical cues, also known as clinical triggers, help the healthcare provider to remember when to refer a patient to the local Organ Procurement Organization, California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN), for a consult.

The following are the cues to remember:

Refer a patient meeting these cues **within 1 hour** of identification. Patients with a severe illness, poor prognosis or neurological injury, requiring ventilatory support and meeting ANY ONE of the following criteria:

- Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) of 5 or less
- Loss of one or more brainstem reflexes
- Anticipated discussions of withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments

Additionally, refer EVERY cardiac death **within 1 hour** for tissue donation evaluation.

**POINTERS:**

- Please do not rule patients out for disease or age.
- If patient meets brain death criteria, do not extubate until CTDN has had the opportunity to evaluate and offer the family the donation possibility if the patient is medically suitable for donation.
- Please do not bring up donation as the patient may not be suitable or it may be too early for the family and the patient.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

- There are over 114,800 patients on the waiting list (UNOS, 2012). A referral for a donation consult could make a difference for those patients awaiting a transplant.
- Federal Regulations stipulate that every family of every suitable patient should be given the opportunity to make a decision with regards to donation. (42 CFR Part 482)
- Donation can provide the grieving family with a sense of purpose and comfort.