

Organ and Tissue Donation and Recovery Process Continuing Education

Effective May 1, 2026, registered nurses must complete at least 2 hours of Board-approved continuing education in organ and tissue donation and recovery process (organ donation) one time within 5 years of initial licensure or within 5 years of licensure renewal, whichever comes first.

The State Board of Nursing approved the following six-part curriculum to satisfy this requirement:

(1) Overview of the Organ Donation & Transplantation System—This part describes the national, state and local systems for organ and tissue donation. Organ transplant waiting lists will be discussed as well as transplantable organs and tissues, including vascularized composite allografts.

(2) Tissue Donation Process—This part describes common applications for transplantable tissue and a framework for an effective hospital process.

(3) Organ Donation Process—This part describes commonly transplantable organs, and the entire organ donation process from the initial referral to the recovery of organs. It also defines the role of the OPO and the healthcare team, including optimal practices for communication and collaboration.

(4) Determining Death and Family Communication—This part describes a historical perspective for determining death and effective communication techniques to aid in family conversations.

(5) Caring for Families—This part addresses considerations for providing compassionate end of life care for families and assessing readiness for the donation conversation. It also addresses information and techniques for debunking common myths and misconceptions.

(6) Organ Donor Management—This part describes the organ donation pathways, medical assessment for eligibility and clinical management strategies for optimizing end organ function, the surgical recovery phase, and coroner/medical examiner communication. It also highlights practices for maintaining optimal communication and collaboration.

The organ donation continuing education may be obtained from organ procurement organizations, as defined in 20 Pa.C.S. 8601. The Center for Organ Recovery and Education and Gift of Life Donor Program are the organ procurement organizations designated by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for this region and are an approved

source for this education. Licensees may also obtain organ donation continuing education from other providers approved by the Board to provide this education.

Information about the organ donation education provided by the Center for Organ Recovery and Education/Gift of Life Donor Program can be found at:

<https://tpr.jotform.com/260343493443961>.

Registered nurses are required to keep a certificate of completion evidencing completion of this education for their records in the event of audit. The final regulation implementing this requirement, as well as the requirement for opioid initial and biennial renewal education can be found at 55 *Pa.B.* 7504 (November 1, 2025).