

REPORT TO THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

ANNUAL DONATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2002

Submitted by

Iowa Department of Public Health

In conjunction with the

Iowa Donor Network

Introduction

Iowa is served by one organ procurement organization, the Iowa Donor Network. There are two tissue banks, the American Red Cross Tissue Services and the Iowa Donor Network and one eye bank, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank. These organizations all cooperate closely together and with Iowa hospitals to promote and accomplish organ, eye, and tissue donation. In 1996, the Iowa Legislature created the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund. County treasurers seek contributions to this fund when Iowans register or renew the registration on their motor vehicles. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee advises the Iowa Department of Public Health on grants to be made from contributed funds. Iowa Code 142C.17 requires the department, in conjunction with any statewide organ procurement organization in Iowa, to submit an annual donation and compliance report.

Donor Referrals

The organ donor referrals in Iowa through the third quarter of 2002 were 165 compared to 180 for the same period in 2001. Through the third quarter of 2002 there were 3,852 medically eligible tissue donor referrals made from Iowa hospitals. This is a decrease from the 4,063 referrals received for this same period in 2001. Every general hospital in the state made at least one organ or tissue donation referral in the first three-quarters of 2002. In addition, and as mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Iowa Donor Network received 4,683 Reports of Death referrals from Iowa hospitals.

Of the 165 patient deaths referred to the Iowa Donor Network for organ donation evaluation, 39 became organ donors. This was a nine organ donor decrease from the same time period in 2001.

Organs and Tissues Recovered

Not every referral results in a suitable organ or tissue donation. Consent for donation and medical suitability must also be considered. Through the third quarter of 2002, there were 39 organ donors in Iowa. These donors contributed 136 organs for transplantation. This is a reduction from the same period last year when 169 organs were transplanted from Iowa donors. The number of organs recovered per donor decreased from 4.15 to 3.49.

Additionally, 194 Iowans donated bone and other non-vascular tissues for transplantation through September 2002. This reflects an increase of 15 over the 179 donating in the previous year. Heart valves for corrective and life-saving surgeries were obtained from 61 cadaver donors during this time period. Iowans contributing much-needed cadaver skin for burn treatment increased significantly. Through September 2002, 224 contributions were made as compared to 163 for the same period the previous year.

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank recovered 829 corneas for sight saving/restoring surgery and another 582 eyes were recovered and provided for important research into the causes of blindness in fiscal year 2002.

Medicare Rules

In August of 1998, the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) promulgated regulations designed to increase organ and tissue donation. The rules are part of the Hospital Conditions of Participation for the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. The rules require "a hospital to have an agreement with the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) designated by the Secretary (DHHS), under which the hospital will contact the OPO in a timely manner about individuals who die or whose death is imminent in the hospital. The OPO will then determine the individual's medical suitability for donation. The hospital must also have an agreement with at least one tissue bank and at least one eye bank to cooperate in the retrieval, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissue and eyes, as long as the agreement doesn't interfere with the organ donation. The final rule requires a hospital to ensure, in collaboration with the OPO with which it has an agreement, that the family of every potential donor is informed of its option to donate organs or tissues or not to donate."

Contributions

The contributions to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund were significantly higher in fiscal year 2002 than in fiscal year 2001. In fiscal year 2002, there were contributions totaling \$40,909.80. In fiscal year 2001 the contributions totaled \$28,890.04. The statewide rate in fiscal year 2002 was 1.4 cents per capita, up from 1.0 cents per capita in fiscal year 2001. The county treasurers, the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank continue to explore ways to increase the visibility of the contribution opportunity and contributions to the fund.

Community Grants

The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness program funding application and contracting procedures were evaluated and revised to align more closely with Department of Public Health standards in fiscal year 2002.

Total payment from the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund totaled \$5,026 in fiscal year 2002. This included \$1,546 on contracts awarded in fiscal year 2001 for public awareness activities and \$3,480 to the Iowa Methodist Medical Center for organ transplantation procedures and related patient costs.

An announcement of funds being available to hospitals and nonprofit and government organizations for anatomical gift public awareness programming was made in May 2002. However, there were no new funding awards in fiscal year 2002.

Donor Registry

Chapter 1052, Acts of the 2000 General Assembly authorized the director of the Department of Public Health to contract for the establishment of a statewide organ and tissue donor registry. As specified, the contract shall provide for a centralized database and automated system to make organ and tissue donor information available to family members and physicians seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. The Iowa Donor Network launched just such a registry, www.IowaDonorRegistry.org on March 18, 2002. To date, more than 11,000 Iowans have registered their intentions to become organ and tissue donors upon death. At this time, due to lack of state resources (funding and personnel) there is no electronic sharing of information between IDN, the Department of Transportation and county treasurers offices regarding the donor status of Iowa licensed drivers. It is possible that this automatic link may occur in the future.

Summary

As indicated in this report, the organ and tissue donation program continues to serve a significant number of Iowans. Although organ referrals and organ donations were less in fiscal year 2002, tissue donors and tissue contributions increased. As of December 2002, there remained 325 citizens continuing to wait for lifesaving organ transplants. Efforts to increase public awareness and acceptance of organ and tissue donation must continue and be fostered by every practicing nurse, physician, social worker, paramedic, law enforcement official, hospital administrator and funeral director in Iowa. The Anatomical Gift Public Awareness Advisory Committee, the Iowa Donor Network, the American Red Cross Tissue Services, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and the Iowa Department of Public Health will continue to promote increased organ and tissue donation and explore ways to increase public awareness of the option of organ tissue donation.