



## **Determination of Brain Death**

1. Patient is unresponsive; makes no spontaneous movements and does not respond to ANY stimuli (this does not include spinal reflex)
2. Absent cranial reflexes
  - Fixed pupils
  - No corneal reflexes
  - No oculocephalic reflex (eyes remain immobile)
  - No response to iced calorics
  - No cough or gag reflex
3. No spontaneous respiratory efforts with CO<sub>2</sub> >60 while off the ventilator for 10 min
4. No residual effect of hypothermia temperature or CNS depressants. Temperature must be  $\geq$  32 degrees C or 90 degrees F.
5. If EEG done, it should be isoelectric
6. If cerebral blood flow study done, there should be no blood flow to the brain

### Documentation

Two physicians must document brain death in the progress notes with the date and time. They must not be a part of the transplant team

### California Brain Death Law:

A person shall be pronounced dead if a physician determines that the person has suffered a total and irreversible cessation of the entire brain. There will be independent confirmation of death by another physician.

The legal time of death is the 2<sup>nd</sup> declaration.