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 CO2 >60 while off the ventilator for 10 min

4. No residual effect of hypothermia temperature or CNS depressants.
   Temperature must be  > 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\textsuperscript{nd} declaration.