

Deceased donor - definitions (and YASWA registration)

Potential donor (Donation realized: P - Potential donor):

DBD donor: A person whose clinical condition is suspected to fulfill brain death criteria, but is not (yet) accepted as a donor.

DCD donor: A person whose circulatory and respiratory functions have ceased and resuscitative measures are not to be attempted or continued or a person in whom the cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions is anticipated to occur within a time frame that will enable organ recovery.

No donor (Donation realized: No + variants that differs from eligible donor definitions)

When a potential donor ends up not becoming an eligible, actual or utilized donor.

Eligible donor (Donation realized: N – No + Consent to donation: Yes + Consent but no donation: UD, BA or LC):

A medical suitable person who consent to donation who has been declared dead based on neurological criteria as stipulated by the law of the relevant jurisdiction.

Stand down DCD donor: (Donation realized: N – No + Date in cDCD time limit exceeded, no organs procured)

When it is decided to stand down organ retrieval after life sustaining treatment has been withdrawn and time limits has exceeded according to national rules.

Actual donor (Donation realized: Y - Yes):

DBD and DCD donor: A donor where an operative incision was made with the intent of organ recovery for the purpose of transplantation or at least one organ was retrieved for the purpose of transplantation

DCD donor: Or once NRP-related cannulation has started

Utilized donor (Donation realized: Y - Yes):

An actual donor from whom at least one solid organ was transplanted.

Primary source:

[The critical pathway for deceased donation: reportable uniformity in the approach to deceased donation](#)

Version 1: September 25th, 2012

Version 2: April 15th, 2013 - Definition of actual donor rephrased

Version 3: March 1st, 2016 – Actual donor definition includes '*operative incision was made with the intent of organ recovery for the purpose of transplantation*'. Which means that the deceased donor definitions follow the WHO definitions

Version 4: February 3rd, 2017 – Definition of Potential DCD included

Version 5: September 24th, 2021 – Adding information on eligible and 'No donor'

Version 6: August 30th, 2023 – Adding information on 'Stand down DCD donor'

Version 7: April 7th, 2026 – Adjusting 'Actual donor' definition to cover NRP-related cannulation start

