

# Nuts & Bolts of Brain Death Certification Workshop

## Description

Proper certification of death has legal, social, and epidemiological significance. With the implementation of the Coroners Act 2010, there has been a need on highlighting the additional instructions on accurate completion of death certificates and psychosocial implications to patients and families. It is also a responsibility to many clinicians working in acute care hospitals where there could be unfamiliar and complicated processes of performing brain death certification.

This course is designed to update clinicians on the steps involved in brain death certification. In addition to the clinical aspects of brain death, the course also covers psychosocial and process aspects to equip the clinician with a good knowledge base in order to perform brain death certification well and understand their role in relation to the healthcare team managing potential brain dead donors and supporting the grieving families.

## Duration

Half day

## Programme Content

1. Brain Death – History and Scientific Basis
2. Legal Aspects of Brain Death and Organ Donation in Singapore
3. Neurologic States Resembling Brain Death
4. Clinical Confirmation of Brain Death and the 7 Brainstem Tests
5. Supplementary Tests – Which and When to Order?
6. Certification of Brain Death in Paediatric Patients
7. ICU Management of the Brain Dead Donor
8. Donor Identification and Breaking the Bad News
9. Supporting the Grieving Donor Family
10. Role of the Transplant Coordinator

## Target Audience

- Doctors on Brain Death / HOTA Roster
- ICU Nurses
- ICU Medical Social Workers
- Transplant Coordinators

## Learning Outcomes

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At the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the biological processes in brain death;
2. Understand the legal aspects of brain death certification in Singapore, and organ donation and the Human Organ Transplant Act;
3. Understand the importance and clinical basis of diagnosing brain death and the 7-brainstem tests;
4. Differentiate brain death from other neurological states resembling brain death;
5. Understand the role of supplementary tests in brain death;
6. Understand the management of the brain dead donor;
7. Identify potential brain dead donors in the ICU and break the bad news of brain death to the donor family;
8. Understand the grief of organ donor families and consider ways to support the families;
9. Understand the role played by the Transplant Coordinator

## Methodology

This programme is designed as informative session for participants. Participants will work on case scenarios to demonstrate understanding of knowledge.

## Training Capacity

50 participants per run

## About the Organiser

Officially established on 19 July 2002, the National Healthcare Group (NHG) College plays an instrumental role in facilitating the continuous learning and development of our workforce, as well as, promoting systems improvement and driving leadership development in NHG. NHG College collaborates with renowned institutions and industry partners to build the pipeline and collective capacities of our leaders, educators, healthcare professionals and staff to support NHG in serving and managing the health of our patients and the population.