

BRIDGING LANGUAGE FAQs

Question:

Why bridging language?

Answer:

When a family loses a loved one, and organ donation may be an option for that patient, a physician can help the family by introducing the idea of donation and bridging the conversation to an Indiana Donor Network coordinator. The goal of using bridging language is to save more lives through organ donation while being transparent and supportive to the families of potential donors.

Question:

How do we know bridging language works?

Answer:

Riley Hospital for Children completed an IRB study for a designated time period titled "BLEND," which will be published in the near future. All critical care physicians involved in the study received education on bridging language and used it consistently during the study period. The 7-year average authorization rate prior to bridging language was approximately 62%. When bridging language was used, organ donation authorization rates climbed to 80%. Feedback from the physicians involved indicated bridging language allowed for more transparency during end-of-life conversations and provided a natural progression to their conversation with the family.

Question:

Who can be trained to use bridging language?

Answer:

Any physician or advanced practice providers who is involved with critically ill patients can be trained.

Question:

Why aren't you training bedside nurses?

Answer:

We recognize the critical role nurses play in end-of-life care and the donation process and we rely on their skills for every potential donation opportunity. However, a provider has an established relationship with the patient's family, it allows for more transparency during their end-of-life family conversations. It also provides the opportunity for a timely and seamless transition to IDN allowing for a higher likelihood of authorization for donation.

Question:

When can a provider start using bridging language?

Answer:

Providers can start using bridging language immediately after completing a training program with Indiana Donor Network. We offer both online or in-person education. The complete training, including a 15 question competency test typically takes 30 minutes. A 100% score is required on the competency test.

Question:

Is this compliant with CMS regulations on donation?

Answer:

CMS requires that all individuals that initiate a request for donation, be a trained designated requestor. Initiating a request for donation involves providing information about donation, discussing available options, and making an actual request for donation resulting in either a "yes" or "no" response from a potential donor's family. With bridging language, a provider will not deliver information on donation or initiate the request for donation. The provider simply introduces the subject of donation and bridges the conversation to Indiana Donor Network.

