

CMDA Overview on Human Organ Transplantation

CMDA affirms the ethical use of human organs for transplantation. Organ transplantation offers the opportunity for selfless, altruistic acts of service to our fellow humans. Since clinical demand exceeds the supply of available transplantable organs, well-reasoned policies and responsible stewardship are needed to realize the good of human organ transplantation while avoiding the harms of donor exploitation or unjust recipient distribution.¹

Cadaveric human organ transplantation necessitates that the donor be dead. [See CMDA statement on Death.] The definition of death should not be enlarged for the purpose of increasing the supply of available organs. Such expansions include, but are not limited to, infants with anencephaly and persons who are in persistent vegetative or minimally conscious states.²

Consent for organ procurement must be free of force, fraud, or coercion by individuals, groups, organ procurement agencies, government or others.²

Living donor transplantation has additional unique issues.²

CMDA encourages increased educational efforts to inform the public of all aspects of organ donation and transplantation.

*Approved by the House of Representatives
Passed with 43 approvals, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention
April 28, 2011. Mount Hermon, California*

¹ CMDA statement on Allocation of Transplant Organs pending

² CMDA statement on Organ Procurement pending