Organ, Eye, & Tissue Services

Quality Assurance

All organs and tissues recovered for transplantation undergo a very thorough screening process. While in the hospital, the potential organ donor’s medical record is reviewed for information regarding current hospitalization, medical history, and social history. A second medical/social history is then obtained, in the form of an interview, from the family and any other individuals that may have knowledge of the potential donor's current or past medical/social status. A team comprised of the director of organ recovery services, the medical director of UNYTS, and local transplant physicians then reviews this information. If the potential donor is found to be suitable, the information is then passed on to the potential recipient’s physician. A report of all donors and potential donors is reviewed quarterly by UNYTS’ Quality Assurance Committee.

UNYTS is regulated by several different organizations. Among them are the Food and Drug Administration, the New York State Department of Health and the Eye Bank Association of America. UNYTS is periodically inspected by each of these agencies and has built in a system of checks and balances all the way from referral to distribution.

Donated tissue is handled very carefully to insure the greatest possible success in transplantation. It is first tested using stringent medical tests to determine usability. Then federal and state certified processing centers, working under the strictest standards, process the tissue for transplantation. Sometimes in the processing of tissue it may be made into a different form from its original form. For example, bone tissue is processed and reshaped into a wide variety of forms that become usable in many types of orthopedic surgeries.

For-profit and non-profit companies process donated tissue and make it available to doctors and transplant centers across the country. These processing companies also conduct research to develop new ways to process, recover, and use donated tissue.

Currently Upstate New York Transplant Services, Inc. has agreements with these organizations to process tissue donated by donor families in the Western New York area:

Regeneration Technologies, Inc. (RTI) processes bone tissue, connective tissue, and skin for musculoskeletal surgeries and burn treatment.

AlloSource Founded in 1994, AlloSource, of Centennial, Colorado is one of the nation’s largest non-profit providers of bone and soft tissue allografts for use in a host of medical treatments.