The NCER-PD brain donation programme

What to do when a donor passes away?

We are aware that this is a difficult time and would like to offer our condolences for your loss. As this donation is part of the last will of the donor, our team will ensure that all the procedures are performed with the utmost respect.

This document will guide you through the donation process. Ideally, brain tissue should be gathered within 24 hours but can be collected up to 48 hours after the passing of the donor. The NCER-PD team will work closely with you and the professionals involved (i.e. medical staff, mortician) to guarantee discretion and ensure that donation does not interfere with or delay funeral arrangements.

1. Contact the NCER-PD team as soon as possible to inform them of the passing of the donor.

Tel: 00352 44 11 48 48

This number can be reached from 8:00 to 17:00 on weekdays. Should you try to reach this number outside of these hours, we kindly ask you to leave a message so we can come back to you as quickly as possible.

During the first contact, you should provide the following information:

- the donor’s name and date of birth (see donor card)
- your name, your relation to the donor and your phone number
- current location of the donor’s body (e.g. hospital, nursing home, home)
- contact information for the selected funeral parlour

2. Contact the donor’s doctor and the funeral parlour.

- Inform the donor’s doctor about the current situation and of the person’s decision to donate. If it was not already done, the doctor will confirm the passing and issue a death certificate. This certificate is necessary to proceed with the next steps of the donation.

- Contact your chosen funeral parlour and make arrangements. The funeral parlour will take the donor into their care, then the NCER-PD team will contact them and coordinate the last steps directly with them.

3. The donation takes place and our team keeps you informed.

When the procedure is completed, the funeral arrangements will then continue normally. We want to guarantee as little delay to the funeral service as possible. For our team, it is of utmost importance to perform the whole donation procedure with respect for the donor’s dignity.