

## TRANSPLANT COORDINATOR – LEGAL REQUIREMENT AND JOB DESCRIPTION

### Legal requirement

As per the 2011 amendment of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, a 'Transplant Coordinator' is defined as "A person appointed by the hospital for coordinating all matters relating to removal or transplantation of human organs or tissues or both and for assisting the authority for removal of human organs in accordance with the provisions of section 3."- *Chapter 1 Sec2 –q; Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994*

**No hospital shall be registered under this Act, unless the Appropriate Authority is satisfied that such hospital has appointed a transplant coordinator having such qualifications and experience as may be prescribed (*Section 14, Chapter V, THOA 1994 & THOTA 2011*)**

### **Qualification, Role of Transplant Coordinator (*Rule 29 of THOTA Rules 2014*)**

- (1) The transplant coordinator shall be an employee of the registered hospital having qualification such as:
- (a) Graduate of any recognised system of medicine; or
  - (b) (b) Nurse; or
  - (c) (c) Bachelor's degree in any subject and preferably Master's degree in Social work or Psychiatry or Sociology or Social Science or Public Health.
- (2) The concerned organisation or institute shall ensure initial induction training followed by retraining at periodic interval and the transplant coordinator shall counsel and encourage the family members or near relatives of the deceased person to donate the human organ or tissue including eye or cornea and coordinate the process of donation and transplantation.
- (3) The transplant coordinator or counsellor in a hospital registered for eye banking shall also have qualification specified in sub-rule (1).

### **Brief Job Description**

A Transplant coordinator undertakes grief counselling of family members of the deceased and counsels them about organ and tissue donation. They also coordinate living organ donation and transplantation, deceased organ/tissue donation, retrieval, storage, transport and transplantation, and engage in organ donation awareness related initiatives.

In deceased organ donation, a transplant coordinator provides emotional succour to the families of brain-dead patients, counsels them about organ donation and documents their consent. Their job also includes coordinating with the medical panel for brain-stem death certification, coordinating with various organ retrieval teams, engaging with the police in medico-legal cases, helping with post-mortem formalities, post donation follow up of families of deceased donors, writing press notes, and compiling reports and data for the state regulatory authority and the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), Government of India.

In living organ donation and transplantation, a transplant coordinator manages all the information pathways; ensures all the relevant forms are filled up correctly by the doctor, donor and recipient, and sets up meetings and interview dates with the government authorities. Additionally, transplant coordinators also ensure that the medical records and appropriate tests (work-up) of both the donor and the recipient are in order. In short, they coordinate the process of transplantation and take care of the following aspects:

- i. Documentation
- ii. Counseling the donor, recipient and family prior to transplant
- iii. Medical work-up of donor and recipient
- iv. Listing patients in the state wait list registry
- v. Providing emotional support prior to surgery and in the post-operative period
- vi. Coordinating follow-up visits