

Physician **MEMO**

To | Neurologist, Neuro-Surgeons, Emergency Medicine

From | Patrick Healy, MD VP Clinical Improvement

Date | May 19, 2011

Re | **Declaration of Brain Death Policy**

May 16th, a new policy for the declaration of brain death was implemented. This document outlines the clinical criteria for the brain death and procedures of testing in the patients older than 18 years of age.

Key Points to Know

- Only licensed physicians on the Medical-Dental staff here at Forsyth Medical Center are authorized to determine the brain death of a patient.
- A physician's order is necessary to discontinue life support on a patient.
- A patient must meet the diagnostic criteria for clinical diagnosis of brain death as determined by the American Academy of Neurology.
- A repeat clinical evaluation six (6) hours later is recommended.
- A confirmatory test is NOT mandatory but is desirable in patients whom specific components of clinical testing cannot be reliably performed or evaluated.

The full policy may be viewed on the Novant intranet or by clicking on the link below.
<http://vappnts106ph.novanthealth.org/dotNet/documents/?docid=7348&mode=view>