

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS*

CEJA Report 3-A-06

Subject: Solicitation of the Public for Directed Donation of Organs for Transplantation
Presented by: Priscilla Ray, MD, Chair
Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws
(Joseph H. Reichman, MD, Chair)

The following recommendations were adopted as AMA Ethics Policy at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates. The full report may be available online at <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/cejareports> or upon request by calling (312) 464-4823.

1 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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3 The Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs recommends that the following be adopted and the
4 remainder of this report be filed:

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6 The obligation of physicians to hold their patients' interests paramount and to support access to
7 medical care requires that maximizing the number of medically suitable solid organs for
8 transplantation by ethical means should remain a priority of the medical profession. Donation of
9 organs to specified recipients has been permitted by donation policy since the beginning of organ
10 transplantation. Although directed donation is permitted under current national policy, solicitation
11 of organs from potential donors who have no preexisting relationship with the recipient is
12 controversial. The Council offers the following guidelines regarding solicitation of organ donors.
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- 14 (1) Solicitation of the public for organ donation on the organ supply or on transplant waiting
15 lists has unknown effects. Policies should be based, as far as possible, on facts rather
16 than assumptions, so physicians should support study of the current system and
17 development of policy based on the results of such studies.
18
19 (2) Directed donation policies that produce a net gain of organs in the organ pool and do not
20 unreasonably disadvantage others on the waiting list are ethically acceptable, as long as
21 donors receive no payment beyond reimbursement for travel, lodging, lost wages, and
22 the medical care associated with donation.
23
24 (3) The health care team must fully evaluate the medical and psychosocial suitability of all
25 potential donors, regardless of the nature of the relationship between the potential donor
26 and transplant candidate.
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28 A physician should resist pressure to participate in a transplant that he or she believes to be
29 ethically improper and should not pressure others to participate if they refuse on ethical or moral
30 grounds.

* Reports of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs are assigned to the reference committee on Constitution and Bylaws. They may be adopted, not adopted, or referred. A report may not be amended, except to clarify the meaning of the report and only with the concurrence of the Council.