

ETHICS

- FOCUS ON ALTRUISTIC DONATIONS -

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Setting the context...

- Definition of ethics?
- *How we should treat one another*
- *Systematic investigation of our values and actions*

Setting the context...

- Deceased donation
- Living related donation
 - ▣ “Family/close relationship”
- Living unrelated donation
 - ▣ “Stranger /altruistic donor”

Taking a closer look...

- Altruistic donation (living unrelated)
- Questions/concerns?

Taking a closer look...

- Possible questions/concerns
 - Is this something “we” should allow?
 - Who decides, on what basis?
 - What do we mean by altruism?
 - Note the labelling
 - What values, in addition to altruism, are relevant to consider?

Taking a closer look...

- Questions/concerns (cont'd)
 - Should an altruistic donor be allowed to direct their donation?
 - Should the risks of *living donations* be re-examined?
 - Long-term risks?
 - Do we need to re-think the donation process? Including disclosure of information and evaluation of donors?
 - Space for the “not so good” stories?

Is this something “we” should allow?

- Historical perspective
 - ▣ Relatively recent shift
- Medical, societal, potential donor, potential recipient perspectives

Is this something we should “allow”?

- Variety of reasons offered for “allowing”
 - Organ shortage, evidence of improved outcomes, relatively low risk for donor (?), supports important societal value(s)...
- Screening process
 - Attentiveness to motivations, psychological profile
- Anonymity (?)

What do we mean by “altruistic”?

□ Altruism:

“Expression of compassionate concern for others suffering from ill health and disability”

(CMA OD&T Policy Update 2000)

“Is the selfless concern for the welfare of others”

(Webster’s Online Dictionary)

What do we mean by “altruistic”?

- Interesting use of this descriptor/label
- Challenge of reciprocity, gift-giving
- Consider from living “related” donation perspective
 - ▣ Degree of relationship/separation?

What values are relevant?

- Individual autonomy
- Freedom/voluntariness (absence of coercion)
- Beneficence/non-maleficence
- Solidarity

Should be able to direct donation?

“Living unrelated donations should be non-directed”

- ▣ Organs allocated according to need/compatibility

- ▣ But...pressure on this principle?

Re-examine?

- Recent discussion about the relative (long-term) risks for altruistic donors
 - ▣ Kidney failure (diabetes...)
 - ▣ Emotional impact

- “Not so good” stories
 - ▣ Room for these?

Address on an ongoing basis?

- Importance of attending to PROCESS
 - “What we do and how we do it matters”
 - Role of evidence
 - Compare practices; challenge “gaps”
 - Identification and discussion of values, with key stakeholders

Wrap-up

