

NEW GUIDANCE ON DETERMINATION OF DEATH

Vermont law specifies that the determination a person has died must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards. 18 V.S.A. § 5218. As a result, we took notice when the authors of a medical journal article about death determination standards contacted the Vermont Department of Health and Board of Medical Practice to announce new authoritative work on the subject.

Representatives of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Child Neurology Society, and the Society of Critical Care Medicine collaborated on a report titled *Pediatric and Adult Brain Death/Death by Neurologic (BD/DNC) Criteria Consensus Guideline*. The report was presented as a Special Article in the October 11, 2023 edition of the journal *Neurology*, and is available online at: <https://www.neurology.org/doi/10.1212/WNL.0000000000207740>.

The new guidelines will be of interest to many licensees. They are relevant not only to our licensees who regularly care for critically ill patients and who are called on to make such determinations. They will also be of interest to potential recipients of transplant organs and their family members, as well as licensees who may need to counsel those who are trying to understand these issues.