

If patients or loved ones of deceased individuals are interested in "Donating the body to science" there are a number of pathways available:

<p>UPMC Educational and Research Autopsy</p>	<p>PROS: No refusal, minimal review for acceptability CONS: Charge for non-UPMC patients, Family pays for funeral</p> <p>Through the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Department of Pathology, patients or next-of-kin of deceased patients can pursue an educational and research autopsy. The autopsy is free-of-charge to UPMC patients but may cost up to \$3,000 for non-UPMC patients.</p> <p>With this pathway an autopsy will be performed, during which the process and results will benefit teaching of medical students and training of pathology residents. Tissues from the autopsy will be used by medical researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and will be banked at the Health Sciences Center Tissue Bank for use in future research projects.</p> <p>The cost of funeral arrangements, cremation or other burial processes will be paid for by the family. This pathway does NOT result in low-cost or free cremation at the hospital. All post-autopsy management of the deceased patient will be handled by a funeral home selected by the family. The funeral home will charge the family for after-death care, funeral, embalming and/or cremation.</p>	<p>Contact Information For more information, please contact the UPMC Autopsy Division at 412-864-LOSS</p>
<p>MedCure</p>	<p>PROS: No cost to family, free cremation, minimal review for acceptability & registration available before or at time of death. CONS: Criteria changes & Limited refusal based on certain health factors.</p> <p>Medcure serves as the bridge between a donor and the medical researchers and educators that rely on donors to help discover cures for diseases and develop new and effective treatments and therapies. They do this by acquiring, recovering, processing, storing and distributing organs and tissues to approved medical researchers and educators. Most people who want to donate can! There is no upper age limit and most disease processes are acceptable. The most common reasons for decline are a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B or C, history of illegal drug use, incarceration or institutionalization and being severely over or under weight at the time of death.</p> <p>You may pre-register by calling 1-866-560-2525 or by calling at the time of death.</p>	<p>Contact Information For more information, please contact MedCure at 866-560-2525 or visit the website: www.medcure.org</p>
<p>Science Care</p>	<p>PROS: Science Care pays all costs associated with donation, cremation. Patients can pre-register. CONS: Limited refusal based on certain health factors including BMI & contagious diseases.</p> <p>Our commitment to the highest level of ethics and quality of excellence affirms our integrity and dedication to do what's best for our donors, donor's families and our community. Science Care serves the U.S. and global medical research and development communities with donation centers across the United States (Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, Miami, and Philadelphia) as well as through our nationwide network of partner lab facilities. As the industry leader, we focus on four key areas: Safety, Consistency, Staffing & Availability.</p>	<p>Contact information For more information, please contact Science Care at 800-417-3747 or visit the website: www.sciencecare.com</p>
<p>Humanity Gifts Registry</p>	<p>PROS: No cost to family & cremation by HGR CONS: Patients need to register ahead of time, somewhat stringent review requirements.</p> <p>The Humanity Gifts Registry is a non-profit agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania concerned primarily with the receipt and distribution of bodies donated to all medical and dental schools in the state for teaching purposes. The Registry, formerly called the Anatomical Board, has been in existence since 1883.</p> <p>This organization can work with patients before death or next-of-kin after death, to review donor information and determine acceptability. They have specific selection criteria so all patients may NOT qualify for this route of donation. This pathway leads to no-cost cremation and possible return of cremains to family members</p>	<p>Contact Information For information on becoming a donor or to speak to a coordinator.</p> <p>Please call the Humanity Gifts Registry at: 215-922-4440 M-F 8-3 p.m.</p> <p>Send an email to: info@hgrpa.org</p>