

**OPTN Operations & Safety Committee
Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup
Meeting Summary
November 10, 2025
Conference Call**

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Introduction

The Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via Microsoft Teams teleconference to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and November 3rd Meeting Recap
2. HRSA Updates, Tools, and Guidance on Next Steps

The following is a summary of the Workgroup's discussions.

1. Welcome and November 3rd Meeting Recap

Summary of discussion:

The President of the OPTN Board of Directors reminded the Workgroup of the process through which the Workgroup was formed and provided an overview of the DCD Patient Safety Alert, which was sent on November 6, 2025.

Next steps:

No next steps were identified.

2. HRSA Updates, Tools, and Guidance on Next Steps

Summary of discussion:

The President explained ongoing concerns related to the potential for cerebral reperfusion in NRP. The President suggested that a letter similar to the DCD Patient Safety Alert be sent to the OPTN community regarding NRP, while outlining some initial suggestions about the contents of the letter including occlusion, transection, neuromonitoring, and pre-mortem cannulation.

A Workgroup member suggested that the proposed letter recommend clamping and venting all necessary vessels in order to prevent cerebral reperfusion. Another Workgroup member noted concern about the potential for over-reporting of suspected cases of resuscitation in DCD donors, highlighting that there can be electrical pulseless activity. The OPTN Board of Directors President agreed with this concern and suggested ways to ensure concerns about resuscitation are legitimate.

A Workgroup member noted that some programs are transecting the innominate vein as a means to prevent cerebral reperfusion. The Workgroup continued to discuss surgical techniques that could be required in order to prevent cerebral reperfusion. Some members noted concern with requiring ligating and dividing the left subclavian artery.

The OPTN President also noted that they could study the efficacy of neuromonitoring before any related policy requirements are in place. A member noted that they will need to balance the level of evidence

available, the ethical concerns, and the efficacy of any suggested interventions. The Workgroup member suggested they could recommend a certain approach to prevent cerebral reperfusion and then ask members to report back the data on the efficacy of the recommended approach.

A Workgroup member noted the importance of using clear and applicable terminology, suggesting that “ligation” is a specific term when something more general may be appropriate. The Workgroup further discussed clarity of terminology. Workgroup members noted that surgical teams will know if a clamp was properly applied once the vessel is transected above the clamp. Another Workgroup member suggested using the term “occlusion.” A Workgroup member highlighted the importance of making sure the public is aware of these discussions and progress being made in ensuring safe NRP practice.

HRSA staff provided an update on sharing deidentified OPO protocols on NRP. HRSA also intends to open a web form for OPTN Members to share policies and protocols for use in the policy development process. HRSA staff also indicated an intent to share deidentified information about previously reported adverse events related to NRP.

OPTN Contractor staff reminded the Workgroup of the previously developed guidance document related to NRP from the OPTN Operations and Safety Committee, which was not released for public comment or approval.

A Workgroup member also suggested considering consent requirement related to NRP.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will consider developing an updated communication, if any additional expertise is needed on the Workgroup, and dividing into smaller groups.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 17, 2025
- November 24, 2025
- December 1, 2025

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Brendan Parent
 - John Magee
 - Kris Croome
 - Steve Weitzen
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Kara Monday
 - David Foley
 - Bill Ryan
 - Joseph Turek
 - Sarah Koohmaraie
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Brianna Doby
 - Annie Tor
 - Adriana Alvarez
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Keighly Bradbrook
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Melissa Gilbert
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Laura Schmitt