

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

November 21, 2025

Conference Call

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CCRN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee (the Committee) met via Teams teleconference on 11/21/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Agenda
2. HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development Workgroup: Update and Discussion
3. HRSA Directive NRP Workgroup: Update and Discussion
4. Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit 1-Year Monitoring Report

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

1. Welcome and Agenda

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development Workgroup: Update and Discussion

Presentation Summary

Timeline

- November 13, 2025: Submitted policy proposal to HRSA
- The OPTN Board of Directors will vote electronically to send the proposal out for public comment
- Special public comment (Dates – TBD)
- Target date for BOD approval (TBD)

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

One member asked about the changes being made to the proposal before the OPTN Board of Directors voted on it. The Chair responded that the changes being made were technical and do not alter the substance of the policy.

3. HRSA Directive NRP Workgroup: Update and Discussion

Presentation Summary

Workgroup summary

- September 26, 2025: HRSA provided a letter to the OPTN, outlining required actions to ensure donor patient safety during the NRP process
- OPTN Board of Directors convened a Workgroup dedicated to patient safety and family experience for patients undergoing NRP
- Initial meetings have focused on developing communications to ensure the safe practice of NRP
- The Workgroup plans to review de-identified OPO NRP policies/practices and consider updates to OPTN policy and data collection related to NRP

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

There was no discussion regarding this agenda item.

4. Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit 1-Year Monitoring Report

Presentation Summary

Background

- In 2018, changes to OPTN policy established limits on the number of concurrent organ offer acceptances for any one candidate per organ type
- Concurrent acceptances still occurred after the implementation of these limits
- The practice of having multiple primary organ offer acceptances can lead to late declines, which can cause logistical issues for OPOs
- On May 29, 2024, the Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit policy was implemented. This policy reduced the number of primary organ offer acceptances from two to one for any one candidate per organ type

Data and Methods

- Heart, Liver, and Lung data
 - Pre-policy: May 30, 2023 – May 28, 2024
 - Post-policy: May 29, 2024 – May 28, 2025
- The distribution of ischemic time was compared across eras using the Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test
- For waitlist mortality rates, active and inactive waiting time were included in the patient years calculations

Conclusion

- The utilization rate of liver and lung donors increased post-implementation
- There was a slight increase in the percentage of accepted heart donors and accepted liver donors allocated out of sequence or via expedited placement
- The median ischemic time of hearts, livers, and lungs increased post-implementation
- Waiting list mortality rates did not change significantly for heart, liver, or lung candidates

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

The Chair commented that one of the biggest concerns transplant centers had with this policy was that it would increase patient mortality, but fortunately, the data indicate this is not the case. The Vice Chair asked if there were plans to share this information with other OPTN committees. Contract staff responded that other committees would have access to this data and likely want to hear a presentation on this monitoring report.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 22, 2026
- February 26, 2026
- March 19, 2026

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Ann Rayburn
 - Dan DiSante
 - Greg Veenendaal
 - Kerri Jones
 - Lee Nolen
 - Lori Markham
 - Micah Davis
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Rachel Markowski
 - Shane Oakley
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Driana Alvarez
 - Annie Tor
 - Joni Mills
 - Raymond Lynch
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Siegert
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alina Martinez
 - Ethan Studenic
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kevin Daub
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Taylor Michalski