Meeting Notes

OPTN
Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup: Meeting Summary

Date: 8/10/2026
Time: 1:00—2:00 p.m. ET
Host: OPTN Board Support
Purpose: Discuss and refine NRP policy language

Meeting Attendees

Organization	*Name(s)*
NRP Workgroup	Bill Ryan, Brendan Parent, David Foley, John Magee, Kara Monday, Kris Croome, Lori Markham, PJ Geraghty, Rachel Beekman, Steve Weitzen
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Annie Tor, Raymond Lynch
OPTN Board Support	Amy Lin, Anna Sanderson, Rachel Shapiro, Rebecca Fritz, Sophie To, Taylor Melanson, Tennille Daniels, Zulma Solis

Action Items

Action Item	*Owner(s)*	*Due Date*
Arrange a call with Board Support legal advisors to obtain legal clarification on whether NRP may proceed based on first-person authorization without additional authorization from the donor's agent.	Board Support	8/11/2026
Provide a brief written synopsis of the legal conclusion and reasoning to the workgroup.	Board Support	8/14/2026
Revise the draft NRP policy document to incorporate the workgroup's agreed edits to the potential metrics and other resolved comments.	Board Support	8/14/2026
Reconvene to review the legal guidance, determine any resulting policy revisions, and vote on the final document before it advances for OPTN Board and public comment consideration.	NRP Workgroup	8/17/2026
Distribute post-meeting materials (meeting summary and recording) to workgroup members.	Board Support	8/17/2026

Meeting Notes and Key Decisions

Meeting Notes

Opening Remarks

NRP Workgroup Chair PJ Geraghty welcomed the workgroup and reviewed the agenda.

Review Revised Proposed Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Policy

The workgroup continued its review of the revised proposed NRP policy language.

- **Potential metrics of interest.** The workgroup clarified that metrics concerning a stoppage of NRP should capture cases in which perfusion was stopped after NRP had been initiated because of concern for a physical response or possible brain perfusion, rather than all cases in which NRP was planned but not performed. The related metric for restarting NRP was similarly narrowed to cases in which perfusion had first been stopped for that concern.
- **Pre-mortem cannulation and patient safety events.** Workgroup members discussed how to capture pre-mortem cannulation and agreed to add a metric for patients who consented to pre-mortem cannulation but did not proceed to organ donation because death did not occur within the required timeframe. The group noted that such cases would fall within the broader category of reportable patient safety events involving NRP.
- **Authorization-related metric.** The workgroup removed a proposed metric concerning patients who underwent NRP without NRP-specific authorization. The workgroup noted that the draft policy does not require a separate written authorization specifically for NRP, making the proposed metric difficult to define and measure. The discussion of this metric led to a broader review of the unresolved first-person authorization question.
- **First-person authorization and disclosure.** The workgroup discussed whether existing first-person authorization for organ donation is sufficient for NRP or whether additional authorization from the donor's agent is legally required, distinguishing this question from the policy's disclosure requirement. The group supported requiring disclosure of the intent to use NRP and the relevant information in plain language, while recognizing that the legal requirement for separate authorization in a first-person authorization case remains unresolved.
- **Needs for legal clarification.** The workgroup discussed differing interpretations of the 2006 Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act and the timing of donation after circulatory death (DCD)-related decisions. The workgroup agreed that it should not finalize policy language on the unresolved authorization issue until Board Support legal counsel provides legal guidance regarding whether additional authorization for NRP is required from the donor's agent.
- **Policy references and consistency.** The workgroup confirmed that including an NRP reference in more than one relevant OPTN policy location is appropriate so users can find the requirements when reviewing either NRP-specific or DCD policy provisions.
- **Public comment considerations.** The workgroup noted that public comment can be used to seek targeted input on unresolved or particularly important issues. If first-person authorization is ultimately determined to be sufficient for NRP, the group recommended that the proposal materials explain the rationale rather than leave the issue unaddressed, given anticipated public concern.

Next Steps

The Board Support team will coordinate a call with its legal counsel, the Workgroup Chair, and OPTN President John Magee to resolve the outstanding first-person authorization question. After receiving legal guidance, the workgroup will reconvene to discuss implications for the proposed policy language, incorporate any necessary revisions, and vote on the final document before it advances for OPTN Board and public comment consideration.

The next workgroup meeting will take place on Monday, August 17, from 1:00—2:00 p.m. ET.