

Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup: Meeting Summary

Meeting Information: Agenda and Attendees

Monday, February 9, 2026 | 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET | Location of Event: Teams

The following are meeting minutes from the Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) Workgroup meeting, which took place on **February 9, 2026, 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET**.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Final Review of Drafted Policy Elements
 - Revise draft text
- Next Steps and Adjourn

Attendees

Attendee Name(s)	Affiliation
PJ Geraghty, John Magee, Bill Ryan, Brendan Parent, David Foley, Joseph Turek, Kara Monday, Kris Croome, Lara Schaheen, Lori Markham, Sarah Koohmaraie, Steve Weitzen	NRP Workgroup
Brianna Doby, Raymond Lynch, Annie Tor	HRSA
Rachel Shapiro, Doug Fesler, Amy Lin, Rebecca Fritz, Sophie To, Taylor Melanson, Zulma Solis	OPTN Board Support

Meeting Summary

NRP Workgroup Chair PJ Geraghty opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and confirming that the purpose of the session was to conduct a final, detailed review of the drafted policy elements document. He noted that this meeting would focus on refining discussion points into clearly articulated policy elements in preparation for OPTN Board Leadership review. He also reminded members that the February 16, 2026, meeting is canceled; he anticipated that the workgroup would reconvene on February 23, 2026, after Board Leadership provides feedback.

Final Review of Drafted Policy Elements

The Board Support team shared the draft policy elements document during the meeting and captured edits and discussion of the draft elements in real time. The Board Support team will upload the finalized document reflecting this meeting’s discussion to Box and disseminate the document to the workgroup.

The workgroup chair walked through remaining comments from the workgroup and led discussion of each document section.

Authorization and Disclosure Elements

The workgroup discussed how authorization and disclosure concepts should be framed as draft policy elements rather than finalized policy elements, focusing on alignment with existing donation after circulatory death (DCD) policy and avoiding duplication. Key points included:

- **Policy Alignment.** NRP authorization elements should align with and reference broader DCD authorization requirements rather than exist as a standalone authorization section.
- **Disclosure Scope.** The workgroup agreed that disclosure elements should reflect (1) material risks associated with NRP (including inadvertent cerebral reperfusion); and (2) the safeguards and mitigation strategies intended to prevent those risks.
- **Risk Mitigation.** Authorization language should avoid being overly prescriptive in directing responses to adverse scenarios, recognizing that appropriate actions may depend on the circumstances.

Pre-Mortem Cannulation and Patient Safety Reporting

The workgroup revisited pre-mortem cannulation and related reporting considerations, focusing on how reporting expectations should be framed when pre-mortem cannulation occurs and the individual does not die within the expected DCD timeframe. The group acknowledged feasibility challenges, particularly when outcomes occur outside the organ procurement organization's (OPO's) direct knowledge. Discussion included key points related to:

- Whether reporting expectations should be limited to situations involving known complications;
- How best to capture relevant information through existing OPTN data collection and patient safety reporting mechanisms;
- Challenges related to follow-up and operational burden; and
- Whether feasibility questions should be raised during public comment to better understand prevalence and burden.

Surgical Technique and Timing Elements

The workgroup discussed language clarifying that NRP procedures may not begin until death is pronounced and the specified five-minute period has elapsed, emphasizing consistency with existing DCD policy language. The group reviewed elements addressing vessel interruption and drainage requirements, with particular attention to accounting for anatomic variability. Members agreed that policy language should distinguish between thoracic and abdominal approaches and avoid overly prescriptive technical mandates while clearly articulating required safeguards.

The workgroup also discussed documentation expectations, expressing a preference for capturing a single, clearly defined time point corresponding to completion of vessel transection and drainage.

Communication and Huddle Expectations

The workgroup discussed policy elements related to communication and care coordination during NRP procedures, with emphasis on expectations for huddles, escalation of concerns, and coordination among participating teams. Key points included:

- **Huddle Timing.** The group discussed expectations for pre-departure and on-site huddles to support coordination among participating teams.
- **Purpose.** Huddles are intended to establish shared understanding of the recovery plan, including roles, airway management, and timing for resuming ventilation. Members also supported including explicit reminders during huddles regarding how concerns should be raised during the procedure.
- **Early Withdrawal Events.** Withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy before all teams are present should be treated as a reportable patient safety event for tracking and trend analysis.
- **Third-Party Recovery Teams.** Members emphasized the importance of clear communication and transplant center accountability when third-party recovery teams are involved.
- **Policy vs. Best Practice.** Some operational elements may be better suited for guidance or best-practice documents rather than prescriptive OPTN policy.

Next Steps

The workgroup chair reiterated that he and OPTN Board President John Magee will work with the Board Support team to finalize the policy elements document for Board Leadership review. The workgroup anticipates reconvening on February 23, 2026, after Board Leadership has reviewed the document and provided feedback.

Action Items

- **Board Support:** Distribute post-meeting materials (agenda, meeting summary, and recording) for workgroup members.
- **Board Support:** Coordinate with the workgroup chair and Board President to finalize the policy elements document for Board Leadership review.