

Clarify Requirements for Pronouncement of Death

*OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee
PJ Geraghty, Committee Chair*

Purpose of Proposal

- Purpose
 - This proposal will update the current policies for consistency and ensure a valid and unbiased pronouncement of death
- Proposal
 - Revises policies to clearly outline responsibilities of individuals that may be employed at a donor hospital and by the organ procurement organization (OPO) in the context of donor pronouncement of death.

Rationale

- OPOs employ or contract with multiple physicians who are hospital intensivists to provide on-call medical director services who may need to participate in donation after circulatory death (DCD) pronouncement of death, when not on-call for the OPO, as part of the donor's hospital healthcare team.
- The language in Policy 2.15 G Pronouncement of Death is broad and does not provide adequate clarity for OPOs and the OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) to determine if the policy has been violated.

Proposal

Policy 2.14.A: Conflicts of Interest

- Removed “time of death” to be consistent with *Policy 2.15.G: Pronouncement of Death*.
- Added reference to hospital policy and state/local statutes or regulations to be consistent with *Policy 2.15.G: Pronouncement of Death*.
- Removed reference to physician and attending physician since various healthcare professionals are authorized to declare death.

Policy 2.15.G: Pronouncement of Death

- Modified language to be donor-specific.
- Replaced donor hospital healthcare team member who “is authorized to declare death” with “who declares death” to be specific to that donor.

Member Actions

- OPOs may need to evaluate their internal policies and procedures to account for this policy change.
- Transplant hospitals may need to evaluate their internal policies and procedures to account for this policy change.

What do you think?

- Are there any concerns about these changes impacting patient or donor care?
- Are there any ethical considerations with these changes?
- Does the proposed policy language provide adequate clarity for donor hospital healthcare workers who may also provide on-call support for OPOs?
- Does this proposal help increase or maintain the public trust in the declaration of death of potential organ donors?

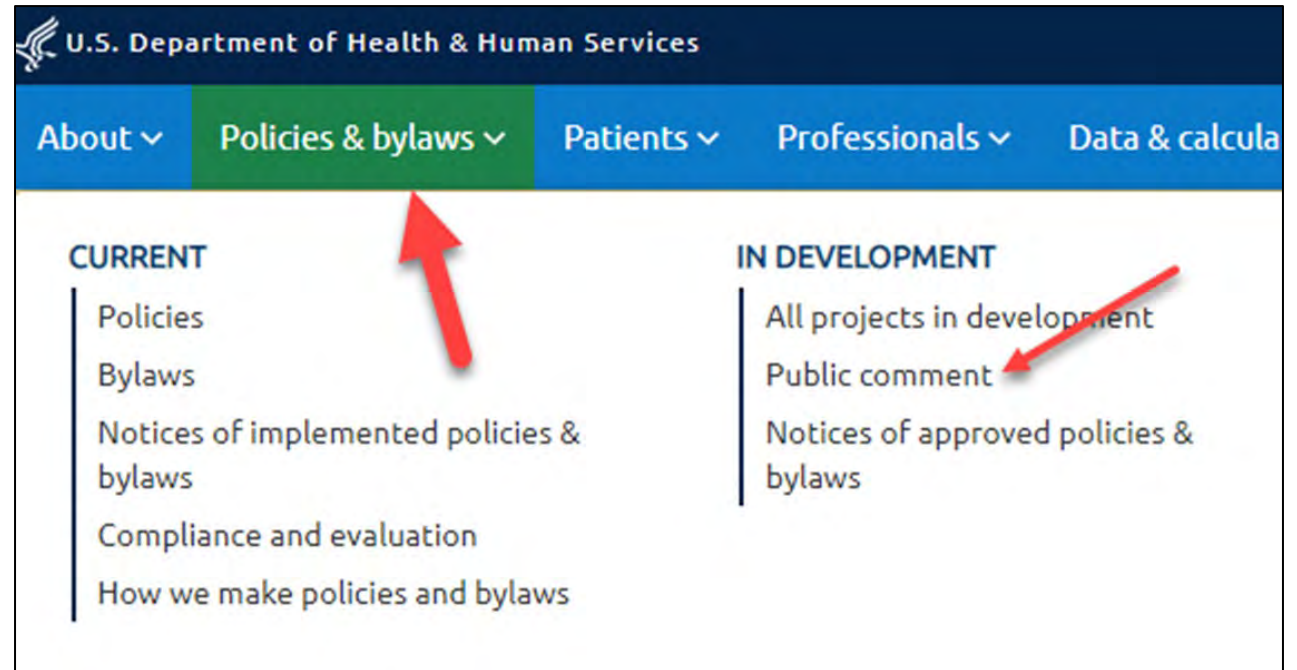
Additional Questions?

- Please direct all questions on the OPO Committee's *Clarify Requirements for Pronouncement of Death* Proposal to Robert Hunter at robert.hunter@unos.org

Provide Feedback

Submit public comments on the OPTN website:

- January 23, 2024 – March 19, 2024
- **optn.transplant.hrsa.gov**



Regional Meeting Information

- Visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/> for the latest regional meeting information and meeting materials

The screenshot shows the OPTN website's 'Regional meetings' page. The header includes the OPTN logo (Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network) and the HRSA logo (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration). The navigation menu includes 'About', 'Policies & bylaws', 'Patients', 'Professionals', 'Data & calculators', and 'News & events'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home » About » Regions » Regional meetings'. The main content area is titled 'Regional meetings' and contains a sub-section 'Regional meetings' with a description: 'Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.' Below this, there is a section for 'Winter 2024 meetings' with links for Region 1, Region 2, Region 7, and Region 8. Region 1 is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 in Waltham, MA. Region 7 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024 in Chicago, IL.

OPTN Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services **HRSA** Health Resources & Services Administration

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Regional meetings

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Winter 2024 meetings

[Region 1:](#)
Monday, March 11, 2024 – Waltham, MA

[Region 7:](#)
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – Chicago, IL

[Region 2:](#)

[Region 8:](#)

Thank You for Listening!