

Notice of OPTN Policy Changes

# Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata from Alaska

<b>Sponsoring Committee:</b>	<b>Kidney Transplantation and Pancreas Transplantation</b>
<b>Policies Affected:</b>	<b><i>8.7.D: Location of Donor Hospitals</i></b> <b><i>11.8 Administrative Rules</i></b> <b><i>11.8.A: Location of Donor Hospitals</i></b>
<b>Public Comment:</b>	<b>January 22, 2020 – March 4, 2020</b>
<b>Board Approved:</b>	<b>June 8, 2020</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Pending implementation and notice to OPTN members</b>

## Purpose of Policy Changes

In December 2019, the OPTN Board of Directors approved policy changes to remove donor service area (DSA) and region from kidney and pancreas allocation. The first unit of allocation is changing from DSA (which, for Alaska, includes most of Washington, parts of Idaho, and all of Montana) to a 250 nautical mile (NM) circle with the donor hospital at its center. Alaska has several donor hospitals; however, it does not currently have any transplant programs and thus organs would initially be offered nationally.

This policy change will ensure that organs procured from Alaska have prioritized placement with Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) International Airport serving as a substitute for the donor hospital at the center of a 250NM circle for the purposes of allocation of donor organs recovered from Alaska. This policy change is a step to maximize the utilization of deceased donor organs procured in the state of Alaska and avoid unnecessary delays in placement.

## Proposal History

The question of allocating organs procured in Alaska was identified at the outset of the Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup as they discussed potential policy to remove DSA and region from kidney and pancreas allocation policy. This concern was repeated by the community during the public comment period for the *Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region from Kidney/Pancreas Allocation Policy* proposal. The Committees agreed that the change to how Alaska donors are allocated should be put forward for public comment and it was released as a standalone public comment policy proposal in January, 2020.

The proposal was broadly supported during public comment and throughout all the regions. The Committees did not consider any changes post public comment and the proposal was approved by the OPTN Board of Directors on June 8, 2020.

## Summary of Changes

This policy adds *Policy 8.7.D: Location of Donor Hospitals* and *Policy 11.8.A: Location of Donor Hospitals* kidney and pancreas policies respectively, that establish Sea-Tac as the administrative center for a 250 NM circle of allocation for organs procured from Alaska.

## Implementation

### OPOs

- Staff may require training and communication about the new policies. Specifically LifeCenter Northwest, which is the OPO encompassing Sea-Tac.

### Transplant Hospitals

- Transplant programs within 250 NM of Sea-Tac may be impacted with organ offers that originated in Alaska. However, all programs should be aware and informed that the distance between the program and the organs recovered from Alaska is determined based on the location of the Sea-Tac airport, and the effect that could have on ischemic time.

### OPTN

- Programming changes will be required for this proposal by the OPTN. The OPTN will follow established protocols to inform members of any policy changes through Policy Notices. The OPTN will create educational material that will coincide with the implementation.

## Affected Policy Language

New language is underlined (example) and language that is deleted is struck through (~~example~~).

### 8.7 Administrative Rules

#### 8.7.D Location of Donor Hospitals

For the purpose of determining the location of the donor hospital, kidneys procured in Alaska will be considered procured from the Sea-Tac Airport, Seattle, Washington.

### 11.8 Administrative Rules

#### 11.8.A Location of Donor Hospitals

For the purpose of determining the location of the donor hospital for allocation of pancreas, kidney-pancreas, or islets, kidneys and pancreata procured in Alaska will be considered procured from the Sea-Tac Airport, Seattle, Washington.

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