

Notice of OPTN White Paper

Ethical Considerations of Continuous Distribution in Organ Allocation

Sponsoring Committee:	Ethics
Public Comment:	August 3, 2021 – September 30, 2021
Board Approved:	December 6, 2021
Effective Date:	February 1, 2022

Purpose of White Paper

In its role advising the OPTN Board of Directors and its Committees, the OPTN Ethics Committee developed a white paper that provides an ethical analysis of the potential and manifest issues associated with a move to a continuous distribution allocation framework. The white paper identifies how continuous distribution will affect utility, equity, and transparency, and provides considerations for how these ethical principles can be upheld and balanced in a new allocation framework. Notwithstanding the hurdles such a move entails, implementation of continuous distribution as an allocation framework can be justified on ethical principles and should improve the transplantation system overall.

White Paper History

This white paper was extremely well received in public comment with consistent support from OPTN Committees, associations, and members of the transplant community. Minor changes were made following public comment to improve clarity. The OPTN Board of Directors approved this white paper on December 6, 2021 as part of the consent agenda.

Implementation

This white paper is provided by the OPTN Ethics Committee for informational purposes to the OPTN Board of Directors and is intended for the operations of the OPTN. This paper has not been adopted as OPTN policy and does not carry the monitoring or enforcement implications of policy. Members are encouraged to read this document and may consider it a resource for the development of a continuous distribution organ allocation framework.