Clarifying Definition of Organ Transplant and Transplant Date

Sponsoring Committee: Policy Oversight Committee
Policy/Bylaws Affected: Policy 1.2 (Definitions)
Distributed for Public Comment: September 2014
Amended After Public Comment: No
Effective Date: Upon implementation and notice to members

Problem Statement
UNOS staff routinely receives questions from OPTN/UNOS members about the definition of organ transplant, including what they should report as the transplant date, especially in regards to meeting reporting requirements in UNetSM. Members report a disconnect between current definitions and actual clinical practices. These proposed definitions will help bridge the disconnect and clarify the policy requirements.

Summary of Changes
We have updated and clarified the definitions for both Organ Transplant and Transplant Date so that they more closely align with clinical practice.

What Members Need to Do
You will be expected to accurately report data based on the proposed language. Although the proposed language will not change the fields routinely monitored, you are expected to apply the new definitions of organ transplant and transplant date when you report in UNetSM. Any data you enter in UNetSM may be subject to OPTN review, and our site surveyors may ask you to provide documentation.

Affected Policy/Bylaw Language:

1.2 Definitions

Organ transplant
Organ transplants include solid organ transplants and islet infusions. An organ transplant begins at the start of once any initiation of organ anastomosis has taken place during the intended transplant or the start of an islet cell infusion.

An organ transplant procedure is complete when either any of the following occurs:

- The chest or abdominal cavity is closed and the final skin stitch or staple is applied.
- The transplant recipient leaves the operating room, even if the chest or abdominal cavity cannot be closed.
- The islet cell infusion is complete.

Transplant date
Determined by the start of the organ anastomosis during transplant or the start of the islet infusion. For a multi-organ transplant procedure, the transplant date for each organ is determined by the transplant date of the first organ transplanted.