

TO: HRSA and the U.S. Transplantation Community

FROM: Allocation out of Sequence Workgroup (AOOS-WG) Chair and OPTN Board Secretary, Justin Wilkerson

DATE: September 10, 2025

SUBJECT: AOOS Workgroup Update: A Letter from Chair Justin Wilkerson

OPTN Colleagues,

I am proud to represent the OPTN and the patient community as the chair of the allocation out of sequence (AOOS) workgroup.

AOOS has [risen steadily](#) since early 2020 from about 1 percent in 2019 to approximately 18 percent in 2024. Understanding and mitigating AOOS is one of the most important priorities in the U.S. procurement and transplantation system today. The match run system is built on patient-provider trust. Patients on an organ waitlist must trust that they are afforded fair and equal access to transplantable organs. Waitlisted patients should not have to understand the complexity of how organs are assessed for transplantation, how organ procurement organizations (OPOs) function, or the intricacies of the laws, bylaws, and policy underpinning the system. They should only need to understand and believe that the system distributes organs fairly in the order of the match run. They should believe that the reasons an organ would be transplanted out of sequence would be rare and justified given special circumstances.

With these thoughts in mind, the AOOS workgroup received guidance and initiated its important work. On July 10, Dr. Raymond Lynch, the Chief of HRSA's Organ Transplant Branch (OTB), directed the formation of the workgroup, and I was assigned as the workgroup chair a month later. We then developed three sub-workgroup teams: the Offer Team, the Expedited Kidney Placement (EPP) Team, and the Compliance Team. Vice chairs were selected to lead each team and numerous doctors, patients, and OPO and transplant program administrators joined this incredibly important work.

On August 15, I presented the initial workgroup project plan to HRSA, OPTN members, and the workgroup. Using project management processes to frame the AOOS problem, I defined the overarching objective and goals of the workgroup, clarified roles and responsibilities, established an initial timeline, and created the workgroup meeting structure. This information was then again shared at the OPTN Board meeting on August 21.

Since then, the vice chairs have been busy communicating with their team, initiating a meeting schedule, and setting up appointments with AOOS experts. They will then hold team kickoff meetings to begin researching their individual tasks.

I am excited to lead this vital project. It is my promise to be transparent in this work and to keep the public fully informed. To do this, we have created a [workgroup web page](#) where everyone can learn about the latest developments and activities of the workgroup.

I want to thank the OPTN President, Dr. John Magee, for selecting me to lead this worthwhile endeavor, and HRSA's OTB for overseeing this workgroup, as well as their initial guidance and assistance. I also want to thank my vice chairs and the patients, doctors, and transplant administrators who have raised their hands and agreed to contribute their time and energy to help us improve our transplant system. They have many responsibilities, and I appreciate their willingness to be part of our team. All volunteers participating in the workgroup should know that their time, effort, and contributions are deeply valued. Your work is essential to strengthening our system for patients and helping bring greater clarity to the OPTN Board and its members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the transplant community.

From,

Justin Wilkerson

Allocation Out of Sequence Workgroup Lead and OPTN Board Secretary