

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

September 18, 2025

Conference Call

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CCRN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee (the Committee) met via Teams teleconference on 09/18/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Agenda
2. Public Comment Presentation: *Require West Nile Virus Seasonal Testing for All Donors*
3. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*
4. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Directive for OPTN Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Policy Development Workgroup Update

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Welcome and Agenda

Summary of presentation:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly reviewed the agenda.

2. Public Comment Presentation: *Require West Nile Virus Seasonal Testing for All Donors*

Summary of presentations:

The Chair of the Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC) gave a presentation on a policy proposal for seasonal West Nile virus nucleic acid testing (NAT) for all organ donors. The purpose of this policy is to improve patient safety by reducing donor-derived West Nile virus transmissions. The policy would require seasonal testing from July 1st to October 31st, aligning with peak West Nile activity in the United States. All potential living and deceased donors would be required to be tested using NAT, with results available before organ recovery or implantation.

Summary of discussion:

No decision was made regarding this agenda item.

The Committee discussed that a potential donor with a positive test result for West Nile Virus should be ruled out from donating due to the high morbidity and mortality related to these transmissions and the absence of an approved treatment for West Nile Virus. Some members observed that they routinely obtain West Nile Virus testing for deceased donors within the timelines specified in the proposal, but noted that some Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) may face challenges accessing West Nile Virus testing with a quick turnaround time.

Next steps:

There are no next steps for this agenda item.

3. Public Comment Presentation: *Establish a Comprehensive Multi-Organ Allocation Policy 2025*

Summary of presentation:

The Chair of the Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee presented a policy proposal for a multi-organ allocation plan. The allocation plan would standardize multi-organ allocation, improve equity, consistency, and efficiency. The proposal would require OPOs to generate a multi-organ allocation plan in the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System before making offers. It would also require the OPO to have Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing completed before they could generate the allocation plan. Once generated, the allocation plan would direct the allocation order of organs for OPOs across multiple match runs.

Summary of discussion:

No decision was made regarding this agenda item.
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The Committee expressed approval for the updated language, changing "permissible" or "not permissible" to "must" or "must not" when making organ offers, as the new terms provide more clarity for OPOs on what organs they can offer. The Vice Chair noted that the requirement for HLA typing completion before generating the multi-organ allocation plan would generally not be an issue; however, there are circumstances where it may pose a problem. The Vice Chair asked if, in those instances, the system would block the OPOs from making offers or if they would be in violation of policy if they needed to make offers in those circumstances. The Committee discussed the need for close monitoring of this policy upon implementation and the ability to adjust quickly to address unintended consequences.

Next steps:

There are no next steps for this agenda item.

4. HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development Workgroup Update

Summary of presentation:

The Chair reviewed the timeline for the HRSA Directive for OPTN DCD Policy Development project. They noted that the project would be presented to the Data Advisory Committee (DAC) in October to request formal endorsement of the policy. By the end of October, the workgroup will finalize the policy, at which point the Committee will vote on it and then submit the proposal to HRSA by November 24th.

The Chair shared the workgroup's idea for a multi-phase data collection on unplanned pauses that occur during the DCD organ procurement process approach.

Phase 1: Utilize the OPTN Patient Safety Reporting Portal for narrative reporting of unplanned pauses, capturing key information (e.g., who called the pause, rationale, notifications, actions taken, resolution).

Phase 2: Develop a more robust system that would require implementation within the OPTN Computer System and potential Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval if the frequency and volume of reported pauses justify it.

Summary of discussion:

No decision was made regarding this agenda item.
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There was no discussion of this agenda item.

Next steps:

There are no next steps for this agenda

Upcoming Meetings

- October 23, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET
- November 20, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET
- December 11, 2025, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Ann Rayburn
 - Dan DiSante
 - Donna Smith
 - Doug Butler
 - Greg Veenendaal
 - Judy Storfjell
 - Lee Nolen
 - Lori Markham
 - Micah Davis
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Rachel Markowski
 - Shane Oakley
 - Stephen Gray
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Annie Tor
 - Brianna Doby
 - Joni Mills
 - Sarah Laskey
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Jon Miller
 - Katie Siegert
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Carly Rhyne
 - Ethan Studenic
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Sarah Roache
- **Other Attendees**
 - Lisa Stocks
 - Stephanie Pouch