

ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK (OPTN)

CHARTER

This Charter governs the structure and operation of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). By accepting membership in the OPTN, each Member agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of the National Organ Transplant Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 273 *et seq.*; OPTN Final Rule, 42 CFR Part 121; this Charter; the OPTN Bylaws; and OPTN policies as in effect from time to time. The OPTN will conduct ongoing and periodic reviews and evaluations of each Member OPO and Transplant Hospital for compliance with the OPTN Final Rule and OPTN policies. All OPTN Members are subject to review and evaluation for compliance with OPTN policies. All such compliance monitoring is performed using processes and protocols developed by the OPTN Contractor in accordance with the contract with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to operate the OPTN (OPTN Contract).

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The primary purposes of the OPTN are to operate and monitor an equitable system for allocating organs donated for transplantation; maintain a waiting list of potential recipients; match potential recipients with organ donors according to established medical criteria for allocation of organs and, to the extent feasible, for listing and de-listing transplant patients; facilitate the efficient, effective placement of organs for transplantation; and increase organ donation. To accomplish these purposes, the OPTN:

- (a) Establishes, maintains, and monitors compliance with voluntary and mandatory membership criteria/policies and procedures for institutions and interested parties and training and experience criteria as consistent with Federal regulations for primary personnel at transplant programs. Policies may become mandatory through a process involving consideration and recommendation as a mandatory policy by the OPTN and official adoption by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of the policy as mandatory.
- (b) Establishes, maintains, and monitors compliance with voluntary and mandatory criteria/policies and procedures for the safe and efficient acquisition and transportation of donor organs and for the allocation and distribution of these organs equitably among transplant patients, consistent with Federal law and regulations. Policies may become mandatory through a process involving consideration and recommendation as a mandatory policy by the OPTN and official adoption by the Secretary of HHS of the policy as mandatory.
- (c) Collects, analyzes, and publishes data on pre-transplant and post-transplant events to advance the fields of organ transplantation, organ procurement, organ preservation, and immunogenetics.