

The Organ Transplantation System

It takes everyone to make the system work.



Information Used To
Develop Policies
Inform Patients' and Professionals' Decision Making
Match Organs

Policies



Patients, donor families, and transplant professionals make the OPTN policies that guide organ matching.

OPTN Policy Development Committee identifies issue

Investigates options

Develops proposal

Seeks feedback from transplant community and general public

Revises proposal

Provides proposal to Board of Directors for review and possible approval

Approved proposal becomes policy

Policies are constantly improved based on every transplant that has occurred in the U.S.

Public Information

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) helps patients and the transplant community understand patients' experiences:

- While awaiting a transplant
- After transplant



Matching



The OPTN (Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network) maintains a nationwide computer network linking donors and transplant candidates.

OPTN national policies drive the order in which patients receive organ offers.

Matching Requirements

- ☒ Blood Type
- ☒ Body Size
- ☒ How Sick
- ☒ Distance from Donor
- ☒ Tissue Type
- ☒ Time on List

NOT part of matching:
Ethnicity, gender, religion, and financial status

Learn More

Organ Donation and Registration: organdonor.gov or donaciondeorganos.gov

Matching and Policies: optn.transplant.hrsa.gov

Public Information: srtr.org

OPTN Patient Services Line (Operated by United Network for Organ Sharing)

888-894-6361 • Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (ET)

