

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee
Donor Testing Requirements Workgroup
Meeting Summary
July 16, 2025
Conference Call**

**Annemarie Lucas, MHSA, Co-Chair
Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, BSN, RN, Co-Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Operations and Safety Committee's Donor Testing Requirements Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via WebEx teleconference on 07/16/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome/Announcements
2. Review and Finalize Workgroup Recommendations
3. Follow Up: Troponin (Data Collection)
4. Closing Remarks/Adjourn

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

1. Welcome/Announcements

The Chair welcomed the members. The Workgroup reviewed the objectives for the meeting.

2. Review and Finalize Workgroup Recommendations

The Workgroup reviewed draft policy language and system requirements based on the recommendations developed by the Workgroup to date.

Summary of discussion:

Decisions for each section of the policy are delineated below.

Blood urea nitrogen

The Workgroup previously supported adding blood urea nitrogen (BUN) to policy as a requirement, since the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System currently requires BUN to be reported in order for organ procurement organization (OPOs) to send electronic notifications to offer deceased donor kidneys. The Workgroup discussed whether the requirement should be added to OPTN *Policy 2.8 Required Deceased Donor General Assessment*, which describes information that must be obtained for evaluating each potential donor, or OPTN *Policy 2.11.A Required Information for Deceased Kidney Donors*, which is more specific to the information that must be provided for all deceased donor kidney offers. The Workgroup supported adding the requirement to report BUN in *Policy 2.11.A* so that an OPO could still send offers for other organs like heart if the BUN is not reported, but BUN would still be required for sending kidney offers.

Creatinine

The Workgroup previously supported adding creatinine to policy as a requirement, since the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System currently requires creatinine to be reported in order for OPOs to send

electronic notifications to offer deceased donor livers. The Workgroup discussed whether the requirement for creatinine should be added to *OPTN Policy 2.8* or *OPTN Policy 2.11.B Required Information for Deceased Liver Donors*. The Workgroup discussed whether creatinine should also be added to *Policy 2.11.A* for kidney donors. OPTN contractor staff noted that creatinine is required to be reported to run a kidney match so it must already be reported in the system prior to the point in time when the OPO would start sending organ offers, as noted in *Policy 8.4.B Deceased Donor Classifications*. The Workgroup supported adding the requirement to *Policy 2.11.B*. OPTN contractor staff noted that the Workgroup's recommendations will be shared with the organ-specific committees for additional review and feedback.

Glucose

The Workgroup previously discussed that glucose does not need to be added to *Policy 2.11.E Required Information for Deceased Pancreas Donors* because it is already required by *Policy 2.8*. Since *Policy 2.8* does not specify that serum glucose must be reported, the Workgroup considered whether it should be added to *Policy 2.11.E* such that it would be required in policy for sending pancreas offers. The Workgroup supported adding the glucose requirement in *Policy 2.11.E* while leaving the existing requirement in *Policy 2.8*, since glucose should be assessed as part of the potential donor evaluation and should be provided for pancreas organ offers.

Electrocardiogram

The Workgroup discussed whether the policy requirement for providing electrocardiogram (EKG) imaging for deceased heart donors must specify "12-lead" electrocardiogram imaging, or whether simply "electrocardiogram imaging" is sufficient. The system currently checks whether an EKG attachment has been uploaded but does not validate whether "12-lead" electrogram imaging is used. The Workgroup supported updating the policy language to refer simply to "electrocardiogram imaging." A member expressed concern that they may not always have an attachment to upload to provide the electrocardiogram imaging to a transplant program. A member asked if "12-lead" was specified in the policy originally to distinguish it from a rhythm strip which typically only uses 2 or 3 leads. The member suggested following up with the OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee (Heart Committee) to confirm that removing the "12-lead" specification is acceptable.

Arterial blood gas

The Workgroup previously discussed requiring one arterial blood gas (ABG) entry before an OPO can send deceased donor heart offers in alignment with the policy. The Workgroup representative from the Heart Committee provided feedback following the previous meeting that requiring the ABG entry may not be necessary for assessing heart organ offers. OPTN contractor staff recommended following up with the OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee on this question as well.

Insulin

Policy 2.11.E currently requires "insulin protocol." The Workgroup considered updating the policy language to refer to "insulin administration" and whether the system should ensure that a response is provided regarding insulin administration. A member asked whether the expectation is to report if a donor is on an insulin drip, or if the expectation is for the OPO to report to the protocol. A member supported changing the language to refer to "insulin administration" and ensuring a response is provided.

Next steps:

OPTN contractor staff will follow up with the organ-specific committees regarding the Workgroup's recommendations.

3. Follow Up: Troponin (Data Collection)

The Workgroup will discuss the proposed data collection on a future meeting following discussion with the OPTN Data Advisory Committee (DAC).

4. Closing Remarks

The Workgroup will reconvene next month to review feedback from other OPTN committees and the proposed data collection.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 20, 2025 (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Annemarie Lucas, Workgroup Co-Chair
 - Christine Hwang
 - Kerri Jones
 - Dean Kim
 - Kimberly Koontz
 - Heather Miller Webb
 - Norihisa Shigemura
 - Elizabeth Shipman
 - Chuck Zollinger
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Betsy Gans
 - Chelsea Hawkins
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Cass McCharen
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Niyati Upadhyay
 - Joann White