

Standardize Six-Minute Walk for Lung Allocation

OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee

Purpose of Proposal

- Standardize how transplant programs perform the six-minute walk test when reporting the walk distance for use in the lung composite allocation score (CAS)

Proposal

- **Policy change**
 - Require an oxygen titration test ahead of the initial six-minute walk test conducted for lung candidates at least 12 years old, and for the six-minute walk test conducted just before candidates turn 12 years old
- **Guidance**
 - Complement existing clinical standards with recommendations for lung transplant programs on provision of supplemental oxygen and safety considerations
- **Data definition**
 - Update for six-minute walk distance to align with the policy changes and guidance

Rationale – Policy & Data Definition

- Requirement for Oxygen Titration Test
 - Provision of supplemental oxygen identified as source of variability in how the six-minute walk test is administered to lung transplant candidates
 - Oxygen titration test ahead of six-minute walk test intended to avoid titrating up oxygen during the six-minute walk test
- Six-Minute Walk Distance Data Definition Change
 - Direct users to additional guidance on completing the six-minute walk test
 - Language clarification

Guidance

- Provision of Supplemental Oxygen
 - Perform oxygen titration test for each candidate at least once every six months
 - Provide extra supplemental oxygen if needed rather than halting six-minute walk test
- Safety Considerations
 - Maintaining oxygen saturation >88% appropriate for most candidates but lower thresholds may be acceptable for some candidates
 - Enter “0 feet” if completing the test is not safe
 - Exception requests may be considered if candidate is unable to walk due to reasons other than lung disease (e.g. lower limb amputation)

Member Actions

- Lung transplant programs must ensure that oxygen titration tests are completed ahead of the six-minute walk test for lung candidates
 - Must complete for all registered candidates within 6 months of implementation
- Lung transplant programs may need to update internal policies and coordinate with pulmonary function testing laboratories

What do you think?

- Do you support the proposed policy requirement for oxygen titration testing?
- Would an implementation date of September 5, 2024, give lung transplant programs enough time to prepare for the changes?
- Is the guidance clear?
- What, if any, consideration should be given for altitude for candidates who live at a significantly different altitude compared to the transplant hospital where they are registered?

FAQs

- Why is the committee requiring just one oxygen titration test for each candidate?
- Why does the requirement only apply to candidates at least 12 years old and those approaching their 12th birthday?
- When should an exception request be considered?

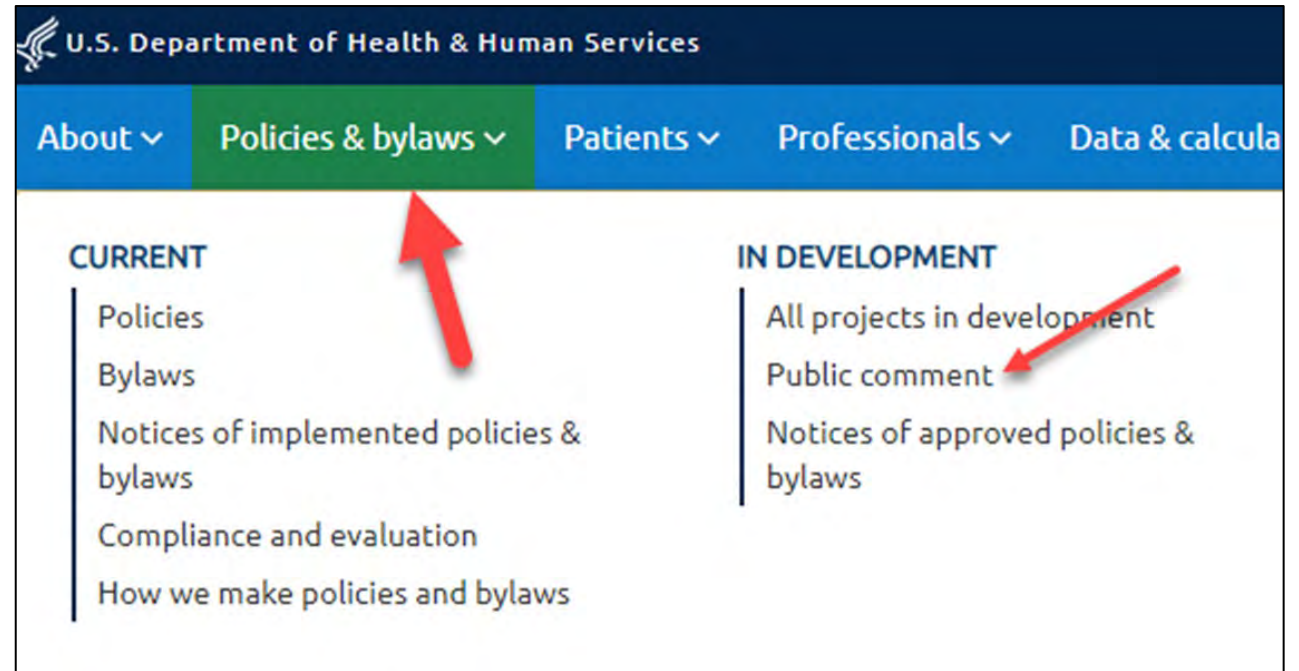
Additional Questions?

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Provide Feedback

Submit public comments on the OPTN website:

- January 23, 2024- March 19, 2024
- **optn.transplant.hrsa.gov**



Regional Meeting Information

Visit <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/about/regions/regional-meetings/> for the latest regional meeting information and meeting materials

The screenshot shows the OPTN website header with the logo and navigation menu. The breadcrumb trail is: Home » About » Regions » Regional meetings. The main content area has a heading 'Regional meetings' and introductory text: 'Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.'

What is the OPTN	▼	Regional meetings
OPTN membership	▼	
Governance	▲	Regional meetings
Board of directors		Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods.
Committees		Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.
Regions		

Thank You For Listening!