

Notice of OPTN Variance Extension

Extending Hawaii and Puerto Rico Closed Blood Type Variance

Sponsoring Committee:	OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee
Policies Affected:	<i>Policy 9.12.B: Closed Variance for Allocation of Blood Type O Deceased Donor Livers</i>
Public Comment:	October 8 – November 1, 2018
Variance Approval Date:	December 3, 2018
Extension Approval Date:	December 6, 2021
Expiration Date:	February 6, 2024

Purpose of Variance

This proposal extends the existing blood type variance for donors recovered in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, as outlined in *OPTN Policy 9.12.B: Closed Variance for Allocation of Blood Type O Deceased Donor Livers*. Prior to this proposal, the variance was set to expire on February 4, 2022. This proposal extends the variance and it is now set to expire on February 6, 2024.

The variance allows for the allocation of O donors recovered in Hawaii or Puerto Rico to A and AB candidates in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, respectively, before national offers to O and B candidates. In effect, the variance creates an opportunity for organs to remain on the islands before being offered more broadly and accounts for the distinct blood type prevalence in the populations.

Variance History

The variance existed in Hawaii prior to the implementation of the Acuity Circles policy. However, it was extended to include Puerto Rico as part of the Acuity Circles policy.¹ The variance was implemented with Acuity Circles on February 4, 2020 and was set to expire after two years on February 4, 2022. The OPTN Board of Directors extended the variance to allow for more time to monitor the impact of the variance and consider whether to incorporate the variance into OPTN policy.

Summary of Changes

This proposal extends the existing variance, which is now set to expire on February 6, 2024. The proposal does not otherwise change the existing variance.

Implementation

No member actions are required as a result of the extended variance.

¹ "OPTN Policy Notice Liver and Intestine Distribution Using Distance from Donor Hospital" December, 2019. https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/2788/liver_policynotice_201901.pdf.

Affected Variance Language

9.12.B Closed Variance for Allocation of Blood Type O Deceased Donor Livers

This is a closed variance that applies only to liver and liver-intestine organs allocated by the 5 OPOs in Hawaii and Puerto Rico to potential transplant recipients registered at transplant programs in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, respectively due to geographic location. This variance supersedes the treatment of blood type O donors according to 9.8.C Allocation of Livers by Blood Type, and instead the OPO will allocate these blood type O organs to potential transplant recipients with any blood type within the same classification.