

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee  
Donor Testing Requirements Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
August 20, 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 08/20/2025 to discuss the following agenda items:

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

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. Follow Up: Troponin (Data Collection)**

The Workgroup reviewed data collection recommendations for Troponin I and Troponin T for heart organ offers. The data collection recommendations include adding new required data fields for Troponin I upper normal limit and Troponin T upper normal limit in the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System.

#### Summary of discussion:

No decisions made. Additional follow-up with the OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee was recommended.

The Workgroup Co-Chair voiced concerns about variation in the units of measurement being used for troponin and potential challenges reporting this in the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System. Some organ procurement organizations (OPOs) use nanograms per liter (ng/L), while others use nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL). The OPTN Donor Data and Matching System currently uses nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL).

Most Workgroup members commented that their respective OPOs measure Troponin by ng/L. The Workgroup Co-Chair asked if it was necessary to include the units of measurement. A member affirmed it was necessary to include the units of measurement in order to determine high sensitivity values. The older measurement of Troponin used ng/mL while newer measurements of Troponin use ng/L. The member stated that there would either need to be a way to document which units of measurement is used (ng/mL or ng/L) or standardize the units of measurement.

The Workgroup recommended that the units of measurement should be updated in the OPTN Donor Data and Matching System and standardized to ng/L. The Workgroup requested that this be deferred to the OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee for additional review and feedback.

The Contractor asked the Workgroup if there were any concerns of potential burden to staff with the recommendation to add the Troponin I and T upper normal limit data fields. The Workgroup agreed that the addition of these data fields would have minimal burden and alignment with existing data collection practices.

Next steps:

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

### **3. Review and Finalize Workgroup Recommendations**

The Workgroup had a final review of the policy, guidance, and system recommendations.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions made.
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The Workgroup agreed with the recommendations. There were no additional questions or comments.

### **4. Next Steps/Closing Remarks**

The Workgroup was updated on next steps for the project.

Additional outreach would be made to all organ-specific Committee to provide project updates and an opportunity to obtain feedback. The recommendations would be submitted to the OPTN Operations and Safety Committee for their final review and vote. A proposal is targeted for the January 2026 public comment cycle.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions made. This meeting concluded Workgroup discussions.
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The Workgroup's leadership thanked members for their engagement and contributions throughout the project's duration, highlighting the collaborative effort in achieving a comprehensive overhaul of the related policies and data systems.

There were no additional questions or comments. Workgroup members were notified this concluded the meeting series and discussion and no further meetings would need to be scheduled. The meeting was adjourned.

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Annemarie Lucas, Workgroup Chair
  - Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, Workgroup Co-Chair
  - Christine Hwang
  - Chuck Zollinger
  - Dan DiSante
  - Hanh Khuu
  - Irma Sison
  - Jackie Russe
  - Jessica Yokubeak
  - Dean Kim
  - Lara Danziger-Isakov
  - Laurine Bow
  - Shehzad Rehman
  - Steve Potter
  - Tamas Alexy
  - Vanessa Cowan
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Joann White
  - Carlos Martinez
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - Niyati Upadhyay
  - Tory Boffo