

## OPTN and UNOS Updates

### Liver Allocation Questionnaire/Forum

In December, the OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee solicited public feedback via an online questionnaire regarding current liver allocation policy and various concepts for policy improvement. Although the deadline for questionnaire responses has ended, the Committee will sponsor a public forum April 12 in Atlanta, Georgia, to discuss feedback obtained and to present statistical modeling data related to the concepts being studied. The Committee will consider this input before developing any potential proposals to amend liver allocation policy.

The Liver Committee's Request for Information, which provides a brief synopsis of the current policies followed by a discussion of aspects of the system that might be improved and several broad concepts for change, can still be accessed online on the UNOS Web site at <http://www.unos.org>.

### Policy Rewrite Initiative

Member surveys and other member feedback have long noted the complex wording and organization of OPTN policies. In an effort to address this concern, UNOS is beginning a major initiative to rewrite OPTN policies in plain language and to reorganize information. This effort should not affect the substance or

interpretation of any policy, although the appropriate committee(s) may review any policy questions or concerns identified through this process. The process is also intended to establish clarity and organizational standards for future policies.

The project will involve 2 phases: The first phase will address policies not specific to organ allocation and the second will address organ-specific policies. An external advisory group representing a cross-section of OPTN members will assist UNOS staff, and UNOS will seek public input on the revised language during each phase. The OPTN/UNOS Board is scheduled to consider all policy rewrites in November 2010. Look for additional information about this project in the next few months.

### Monthly Online Notice

In another initiative suggested by member feedback, UNOS recently began providing a monthly, consolidated e-mail communication to members. Routine member notices and announcements will be combined into a single online document distributed on a regular date each month. The topics are organized to help the reader quickly identify and view the most relevant items. Occasionally a separate e-mail may need to be sent on an urgent matter, but the monthly communication should greatly reduce the overall number of broadcast e-mails UNOS currently sends.

### Transplant Management Forum

Online registration is still available for the 18th annual UNOS Transplant Management Forum, scheduled for April 21-23 in Orlando, Florida. For registration information, as well as a full agenda and other details, visit the UNOS Web site and click on the forum graphic on the upper left of the home page.

### Revised UNOS Web Site/Social Media

Later this year, UNOS will launch a revised version of its corporate Web site. The site address will remain the same: <http://www.unos.org>. It will emphasize the functions and core capabilities of UNOS as well as non-OPTN services and functions such as Transplant Living, Tii, the National Donor Memorial, CreativeAid, and the UNOS Foundation. Content that is primarily related to the OPTN will be redirected with links to the OPTN site.

In addition, UNOS has in recent months established a presence in social media outlets. UNOS has a corporate page on Facebook, as well as Facebook groups for Transplant Living and the National Donor Memorial. UNOS also maintains Twitter accounts for the UNOS Foundation, Transplant Living and the National Donor Memorial, as well as YouTube channels for the National Donor Memorial and the UNOS Foundation and a Flickr account for photos of OPTN and UNOS events. Please visit these sites and encourage others interested in transplantation to do so as well.