

Donation and Transplantation



3 entities working in concert to save lives

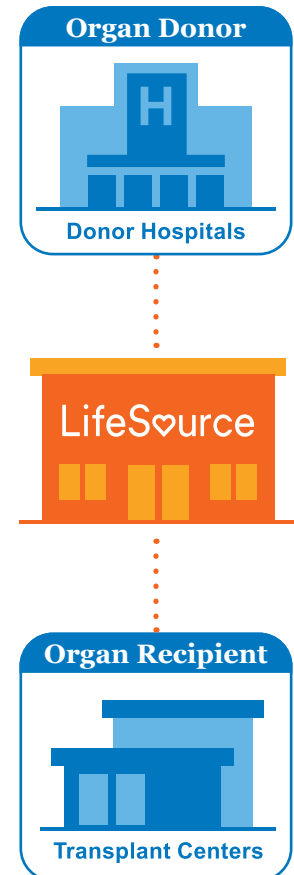
Donor Hospitals, Organ Procurement Organizations, and Transplant Centers each play a vital role in the donation and transplantation process. **The success of the system relies on these three entities working in close collaboration while fulfilling their unique responsibility.** Their unique roles are based upon federal policy.

The National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), passed in 1984, established a national system for organ donation and transplantation which was fair and ethical. The 1986 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act mandated that OPOs coordinate procurement at the local level and that each hospital have an established relationship with the OPO serving their community.

Donor Hospitals

The primary role of the hospitals is to provide optimal care for all patients. In the situation where a patient does not survive, the hospital must refer them to the Organ Procurement Organization. In addition to making the referrals, the hospital's role in the donation process is:

- Provide consistent and ongoing communication with the OPOs.
- Attend to the needs of the family
- Effectively communicate with the family to ensure comprehension of their loved one's prognosis
- Ensure the best transition of care from "recovery" to "end-of-life" care.
- Determine and declare death before donation proceeds
- Have resources available at the hospital for families, including the children of the family

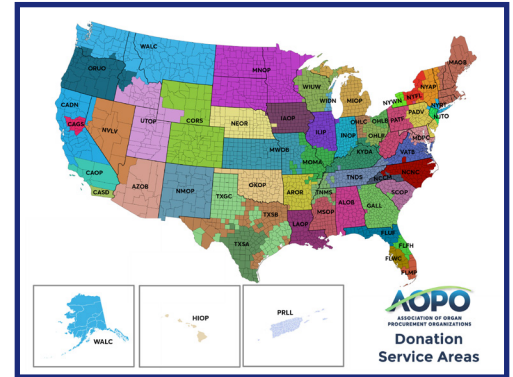




Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs)

Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) serve as an independent intermediary in the organ donation process between hospitals and transplant centers. In the United States, 55 OPOs serve designated service areas. Their responsibilities include:

- Educate the public about organ donation and encourage them to join the organ donor registry
- Partner with hospital care teams and provide education about their role in the donation process
- Respond to referrals from hospitals and evaluate potential organ donors
- Support families of donors before and during the donation process
- Manage the donation process including clinical care and medical testing
- Coordinate organ allocation and offers to transplant centers
- Recover, preserve and transport organs
- Provide ongoing support to donor families



Transplant Centers

Transplant Centers are responsible for performing transplant for patients suffering from end-stage organ failure. The role includes:

- Evaluate patients with end stage organ failure for eligibility for transplant
- List patients in the national transplant waiting list managed by OPTN
- Accept/decline organ offers on behalf of patients based on the donor's age or medical history, matching and many other clinical factors
- Manage medical care for the recipients before, during and after transplant