

September 28, 2009

James Wynn, MD  
President  
Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN)  
United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)  
700 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Dr. Wynn,

The Council and Executive Committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) on behalf of its constituency have reviewed and considered the proposal from the Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee that was distributed by OPTN/UNOS for public comment through September 30, 2009. Below is the stated position of the ASTS on this proposal.

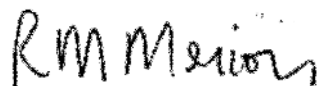
**Proposal: To modify requirements for mandatory HTLV-1/2 testing for all deceased donors and confirmatory testing of all donors with positive screening test results. Affected/Proposed Policy: Policy 2.2.3.1 (For All Potential Donors).**

The ASTS Council had considerable discussion regarding the risk of disease transmission and the merit of retrospective testing for HTLV-1/2. While it is recognized that there is some extremely small risk of disease transmission and therefore theoretical merit to testing, the ASTS **does not** support this proposal.

UNOS data indicates that there is not a single reported case of disease transmission of HTLV-1/2 in the United States from solid organ transplantation. The incidence of .035 - .046% in blood donors and presumably lower in deceased organ donors makes the likelihood of a positive finding equal to approximately one donor every two years with no documented cases of disease transmission even with seroconversion. This test will add unnecessary burden and expense to Organ Procurement Organizations and transplant centers with no evidence of benefit to patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this proposal. ASTS would be pleased to participate in any further definition or revision of this potential policy modification.

Yours sincerely,



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