The Organ Transplantation System
It takes everyone to make the system work.

Transplant Patients
Living Donors
Deceased Donors

Information Used To
Develop Policies
Inform Patients’ and Professionals’ Decision Making
Match Organs

Policies
Patients, donor families, and transplant professionals make the OPTN policies that guide organ matching.

OPTN Policy Development
Committee identifies issue
Investigates options
Develops proposal
Seeks feedback from transplant community and general public
Revises proposal
Provides proposal to Board of Directors for review and possible approval
Approved proposal becomes policy

Policies are constantly improved based on every transplant that has occurred in the U.S.

Matching
The OPTN (Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network) maintains a nationwide computer network linking donors and transplant candidates.

Matching Requirements
• Blood Type
• Body Size
• How Sick
• Distance from Donor
• Tissue Type
• Time on List

NOT part of matching:
Ethnicity, gender, religion, and financial status

Public Information
The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) helps patients and the transplant community understand patients’ experiences:
• While awaiting a transplant
• After transplant

Learn More
Organ Donation and Registration: organdonor.gov or donaciondeorganos.gov
Matching and Policies: optn.transplant.hrsa.gov
Public Information: srtr.org
OPTN Patient Services Line (Operated by United Network for Organ Sharing)
888-894-6361 • Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (ET)