

ASTS STRONGLY SUPPORTS HRSA'S OPTN MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

THE OBJECTIVE OF MODERNIZATION SHOULD BE TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND EQUITY IN TRANSPLANTATION

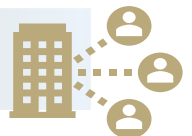
ASTS HAS DRAFTED GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES THROUGH BETTER ALIGNMENT, ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN OPTN OPERATIONS AND POLICYMAKING

ALIGNMENT



The OPTN should spearhead development of a **National Transplant Strategy** that includes **national performance goals & associated metrics** for the organ transplantation system through a transparent process that includes ALL stakeholders and government agencies with jurisdiction over transplantation, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Performance goals and metrics should be tightly **focused on achieving increased access and equity**.

ENGAGEMENT



- The OPTN should facilitate input by all stakeholders early in the policy formulation process.
- All data relied upon by the OPTN should be provided to stakeholders in advance of its consideration in policymaking.
- A single comprehensive **user-friendly** public-facing website should be developed with input from patients and their families to provide all information necessary for them to engage with the system.



Accountability



- The OPTN should be an independent organization that engages in no activity other than OPTN policymaking and implementation.
- The OPTN should be Board-driven and should have full and direct authority over all its staff.
- The OPTN should continue to assess, collect, and allocate patient registration fees and should ensure that such fees are utilized to achieve the improvements in access and equity set forth in National Transplant Strategy's national performance goals.
- The OPTN should retain authority over all specialized contractors engaged to modernize OPTN IT systems and other OPTN operations.
- Each entity with jurisdiction over any component of the transplant system should have a well defined and non-overlapping area of responsibility.
 - CMS should regulate transplant centers and OPOs;
 - HRSA should oversee the OPTN in compliance with NOTA and the Final Rule;
 - The OPTN should exercise its authority to achieve the improvements in access and equity outlined in the National Transplant Strategy; and
 - The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) should engage in data collection and dissemination that is clearly defined and distinguished from the data-related role of the OPTN.
- Public metrics should be established to measure the progress made by each governmental and non-governmental entity in the system in improving access and reducing disparities in transplantation.