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American Society of Transplant Surgeons®

June 28, 2018

Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

RE: PHS Revised Guidelines for Reducing Transmission of HIV, HBV, and HCV Through Organ Transplantation

Dear Director Redfield:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), I write to ask your assistance in revising the “Public Health Service Guidelines for Reducing HIV, HBV, and HCV Through Organ Transplantation”.

The guidelines currently in force were developed in 2012 and implemented in 2013. These outdated guidelines are contributing to the under utilization of transplantable life-saving organs. ASTS feels that the guidelines mislead the public about the risk of disease transmission through transplanted organs. This results in individuals refusing to accept the organ for transplantation, or, creates needless anxiety and concerns of disease transmission for the patient.

We urge you to re-address the guidelines with the goal of producing revisions that takes into consideration the enormous progress made in disease screening technology and medical therapeutics that makes transplantation safer than ever before. We are here to help and are available to provide specific comments on the guidelines or provide any other information you would find useful.

We also ask for your advocacy for the utilization of vital donor organs (heart and lung) from individuals with Hepatitis C as standard medical therapy. This change, too, will increase organ utilization for transplantation to a vulnerable patient population at risk for pre-mature death.

Please feel free to contact ASTS Executive Director Kim Gifford at kim.gifford@asts.org or 703-414-7870 with any questions or requests.

Thank you for your time and willingness to consider assisting the transplant community in this matter.

Sincerely,

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American Society of Transplant Surgeons

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