

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRANSPLANT SURGEONS**  
Statement of Principles for Organ Donation and Transplantation  
*Drafted and approved by the ASTS Council, April 12, 2021*

The American Society of Transplant Surgeons advances the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy. We view ourselves as patient advocates first and foremost. Dedication to our patients motivates us in our patient care and research endeavors. That same dedication and focus has led us to state the foundational principles that guide our education and advocacy efforts.

1. Our primary public policy objective is to develop and promote policies that increase access to transplantation for medically appropriate patients while maintaining the highest quality of care possible.
2. ASTS supports efforts to identify and eliminate any Transplant Center processes or practices that allow discrimination based on race, gender, gender identification, religion, ethnic background, disability, or other factors.
3. ASTS supports efforts to encourage the acceptance of organs at risk of discard through educational efforts, the identification and adoption of best practices, and implementation of evidence-based guidelines.
4. ASTS urges policymakers to collaborate with the entire spectrum of organ donation and transplant stakeholders in developing or assessing policies that impact organ donation and transplantation.
5. ASTS supports reducing burdensome and duplicative regulation of transplant services that adversely impact patient care. Our aim is to streamline regulatory oversight to reduce costs and improve quality.
6. ASTS supports elimination of public display of transplant center ratings and certain performance assessment outcome metrics that compare transplant centers to one another. Such display disincentivizes the transplantation of usable organs at risk of discard and the transplantation of those candidates that are most vulnerable. Alternatively, we support performance metrics that motivate increasing the use of all transplantable organs and promote the transplantation of all patients who will benefit, including the most vulnerable candidates.
7. ASTS believes that when regulatory standards change, the affected organizations should be given adequate time to comply with any new requirements and that an equitable process must be available for underperforming organizations to address their deficiencies and to demonstrate mitigating circumstances.
8. Any decertification decisions with the potential to impact the availability of transplant organs or access to transplant services should be made with care and due process and include a transition plan that ensures uninterrupted access to transplantation in the affected service areas.
9. Any decision to accept an organ for transplantation is highly complex, involving multiple clinical considerations, and should be made by transplant teams based on the best interests of the potential organ recipient without reference to regulatory pressure or constraint.
10. Any assessment of transplant center performance should be cognizant of the complexity of the transplant ecosystem and should hold transplant centers responsible only for those metrics within their control.

11. ASTS supports the modification and enhancement of OPO performance metrics and believes that all key methodologies used in OPO performance evaluation should be based on verifiable and objective data.