

Organ Procurement Organization Quality Intervention Project:

Driving Improvements in Organ Donation and Transplantation Rates Through Technical Assistance



Overview

Based on the 2021 Quality, Certification, and Oversight Report (QCOR), Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) were grouped into 3 tiers, with OPOs in the lowest 2 tiers (tiers 2 and 3) offered data-driven technical assistance and quality interventions to improve performance of organ donation and transplantation rates.



40 of 42 OPOs in Tiers 2 and 3 were recruited (95% voluntary participation)



73 interventions were developed and implemented to drive improvement

Technical Assistance

HSAG provided over 300 technical assistance sessions on coaching, leadership, and tools to drive quality improvement and guide OPOs:

- Change management
- Data visualization and use
- Human centered design
- Organizational development
- Workflow redesign
- Quality assessment and performance improvement
- Root cause analysis



Results

Because OPOs have different barriers, root causes, and interventions, proxy measures are tailored to the specific intervention implemented in order to gauge improvement. Example strategies and results from 3 OPOs included the following:

Identify Aggressive Transplant Programs

HSAG conducted data analysis to identify transplant centers that use large numbers of Donation after Cardiac Death and high Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI) kidneys. The OPO built relationships with those centers and aggressively placed kidneys.

Measure:

- Baseline = 62% of high-KDPI kidneys discarded (KDPI \geq 60)
- Remeasurement at 9 months = 40% of high-KDPI kidneys discarded (KDPI \geq 60)

Implement Referral Triggers

HSAG identified a strategy for the OPO to collaborate with the donor hospital to implement a pre-extubation checklist. An order set for a hard stop before extubation with the added question of, "Is the OPO involved?"

Measure:

- Baseline = 26 missed referrals
- Remeasurement at 6 months = 19 missed referrals

Standardize Staff Training

HSAG guided the OPO to improve lung allocation and utilization using the A3 quality improvement method resulting in standardized respiratory therapist education, simulation training, rounding, and daily huddles.

Measure:

- Baseline = 18 lung transplants
- Remeasurement at 8 months = 63 lung transplants

