



Creating an Optimal
Environment for Quality
Healthcare for Individuals,
Families, and Communities

Improving Outcomes in Organ Donation and Transplantation: The Organ Transplantation Affinity Group (OTAG) Action Plan

Introductions...



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Listening Session Objectives

1. Provide an overview of OTAG's formation, framework, purpose, goals, metrics, and high-level action plan.
2. Describe collaboration efforts between HRSA and CMS through OTAG.
3. Obtain feedback related to OTAG, particularly in the key areas of collaboration between HRSA and CMS, and ways stakeholders can get involved.

OTAG Overview



Building a Case for Action: System Performance

- The need for organs continues to outpace the number of organs available for transplantation.

**Every 10
Minutes**

another person is
added to the
national transplant
waiting list

**~ 103,327
Individuals
are Waiting**

on the national
transplant waiting list

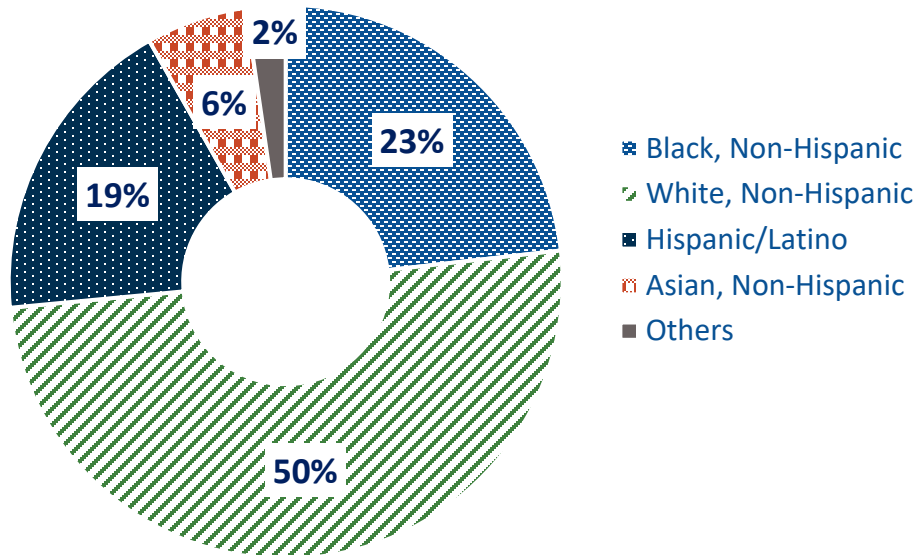
**~ 17 People
Die Daily**

waiting for an organ
transplant

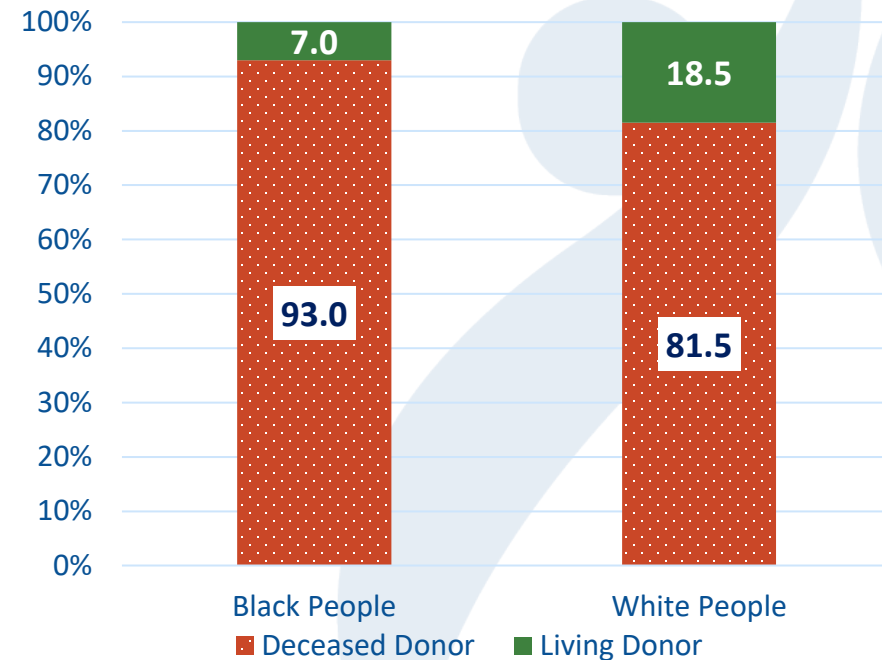
Building a Case for Action: System Equity

- Access to organ transplantation varies not only by geography, but also by factors such as race, ethnicity, disability status, and socioeconomic status.

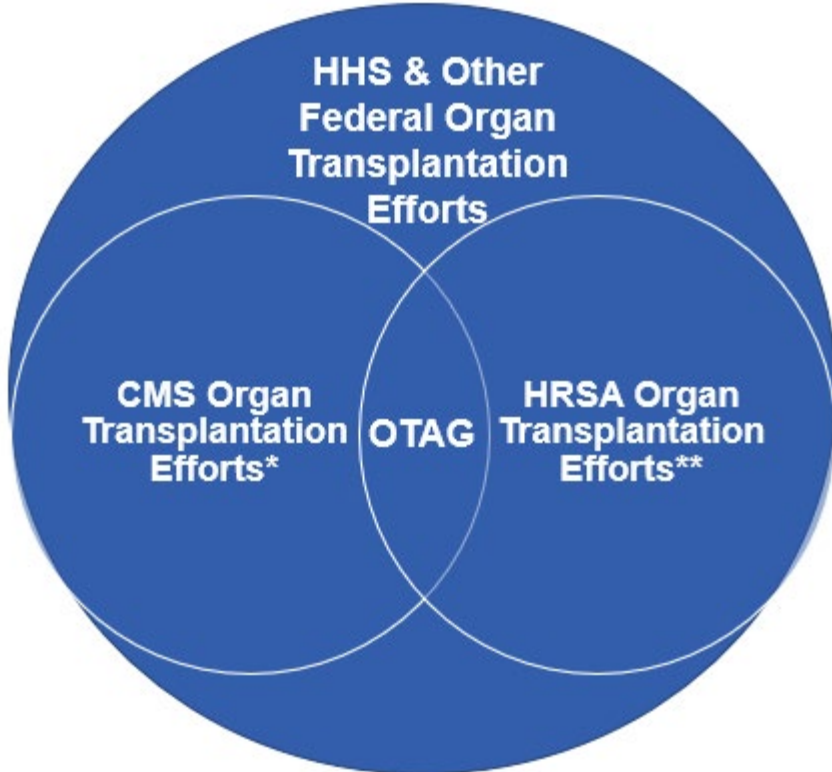
Transplants in the U.S. by Recipient Race and Ethnicity



Transplants by Donor Type for Black People and White People



OTAG: Driving Coordination and Collaboration



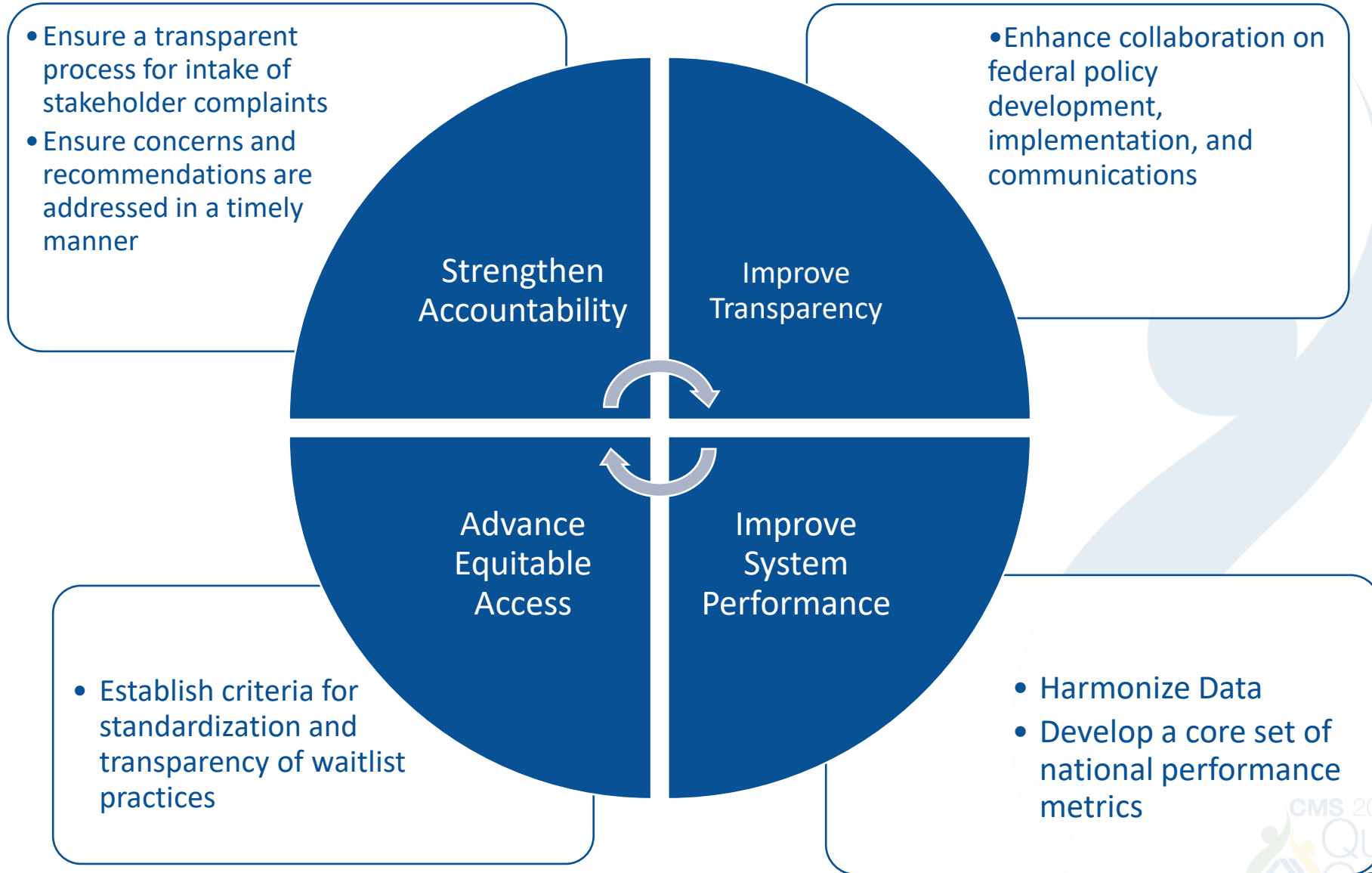
Mission: Effectively use data-driven approaches to maximize the impact of government levers to advance health equity, quality, safety, and outcomes in organ donation and transplantation.

Vision: A transformed organ donation and transplantation system that equitably and successfully procures and transplants organs to save and enhance patient quality of life.

Purpose: Improve interagency and interdepartmental coordination and collaboration to improve the organ donation and transplantation system for all stakeholders

*Payment and Oversight of Organ Procurement Organizations and Transplant Centers
** Manage Waiting Lists and Organ Allocations via the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network

A Whole of Government Approach



OTAG's Approach to Developing its Action Plan includes Several Phases

Landscape Assessment

Prioritization

Interested Parties' Input

Pain Points


Current & Potential
OT-Related Efforts

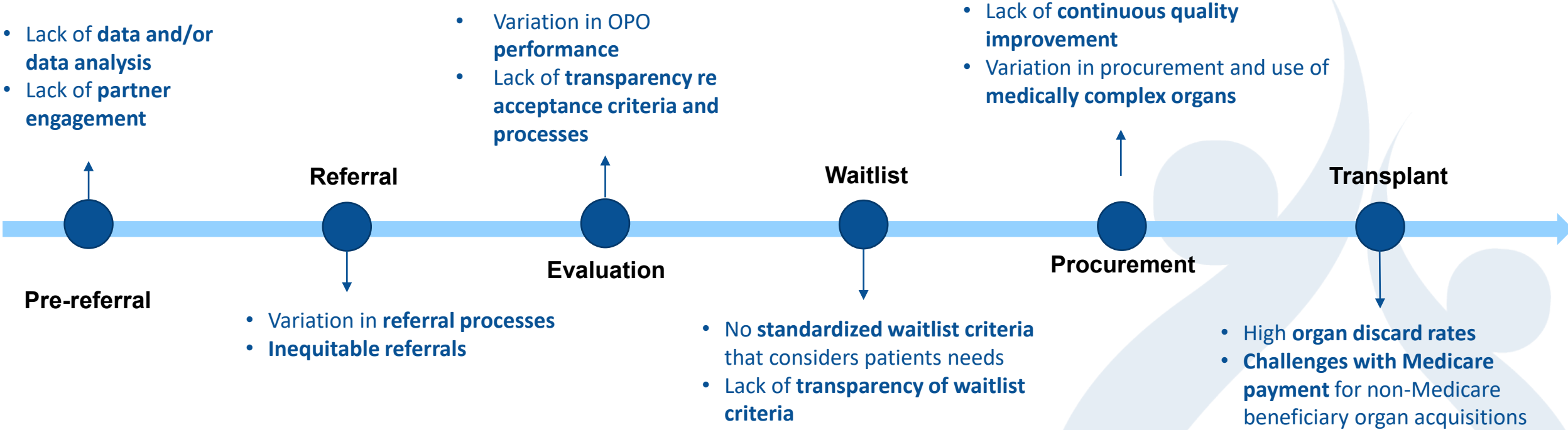
Activities for
Future Consideration

OTAG
Action
Plan

Continuous review for
informed decision- making

OTAG
Action
Plan

OTAG's Landscape Assessment Identified Common Challenges Patients Face Along their OT Journey*



*OTAG recognizes that other interested parties (i.e., transplant surgeons) share some of these challenges (e.g., lack of transparency) that may also impact a patient's journey.

OTAG Action Plan & Collaborative Efforts

2 AIMS

5 GOALS

9 STRATEGIES

Improve U.S. Organ Transplantation System Performance

- Reduce variation of pre-transplant and referral practices
- Increase availability and use of donated organs
- Increase accountability for organ procurement and matching

Improve transparency of pre-transplant and referral practices.

Establish criteria for standardization and transparency of waitlist practices.

Remove barriers to use of donated organs, including living and medically complex organs.

Ensure organ acquisition payment policies promote equity and support organ procurement.

Identify performance measures and incentives to drive accountability for systems change.

Support U.S. organ transplant system operations, including embedding CQI efforts across the system.

Improve U.S. Organ Transplant System Equity

- Promote equitable access to transplants
- Empower patients, families, and caregivers to actively engage in the transplant journey

Ensure OPTN policymaking processes and policies drive equity in organ donation and transplantation.

Improve transparency of referral and waitlist processes for patients, families, and caregivers.

Enhance patient, family, and caregiver education and engagement.

Recent Accomplishments

- On January 18, 2024, CMS released a memo clarifying the definition of “donor” in the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Conditions for Coverage (CfCs). Specifically, this clarification addresses the use of the pancreata for islet cell research that are included in the definition. (QSO-24-04-[OPO])
- On September 22, 2023, the [Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act](#) was signed into law. This Act supports HRSA’s efforts to implement changes to the OPTN through expanded authority to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and the removal of an annual cap on appropriations, making it easier to ensure best-in-class operations and technology and achieve the aims of OPTN Modernization.
- On April 28, 2023, CMS reinforced its strategy for oversight of OPOs with the release of the [2023 OPO Public Performance Report](#) reflecting the first full year of operations following the publication of the December 2020 Conditions for Coverage final rule. This report uses the new outcome measures and tier status, reflecting OPO performance data from 2021.
- On March 22, 2023, HRSA launched the [OPTN Modernization Initiative](#) to better serve the needs of patients and families. This Initiative is focused on strengthening accountability, equity, and performance in the organ donation and transplantation system through five key areas: technology, data transparency, governance, operations, and quality improvement and innovation.

We Need Your Feedback

1. The national goals presented are not an exhaustive list of all of CMS' or HRSA's work; however, the goals are immediate priorities to address system challenges. From your perspective, do you think the OTAG national goals identify and address transplantation system challenges accurately? Are there gaps in the goals proposed?
2. We all appreciate that you have different perspectives on how to achieve the same aim. What goals and activities would you consider as the highest priority to achieve the national goals listed?

Need more time to respond?

Feel free to send feedback to OTAG@cms.hhs.gov

Thank you!

