



*The Organization for Transplant Professionals*

## **NATCO, THE ORGANIZATION FOR TRANSPLANT PROFESSIONALS POSITION STATEMENT**

### **ORGAN ALLOCATION**

#### ***Statement of the Problem:***

Given that the supply of organs falls far short of the demand needed for transplantation, any organ allocation system will be perceived as inadequate or unfair as there will be people who do not receive an organ and who die as a result. If the allocation system is changed in any particular location, it will change who receives and who does not receive an organ, with the concomitant consequences of such change, i.e., death.

#### ***Policy:***

NATCO believes that equitable organ allocation should achieve a balance amongst the following objectives: (1) Maximize the availability of transplantable organs by promoting consent for donation, enhancing procurement efficiency, minimizing organ discards, and promoting efficiency in organ distribution and allocation, (2) Maximize patient and graft survival, (3) Minimize deaths while waiting for a transplant, (4) Maximize opportunity for patients with biological or medical disadvantages to receive a transplant, (5) Minimize effects related to geography, (6) Allow convenient access to transplantation, (7) Minimize overall transplantation-related costs, (8) Provide for flexibility in policy-making, (9) Provide for accountability and public trust.

The routine assessment of variances, sharing arrangements or alternative local units may be necessary to address: (a) patient waiting times (stratified by patient populations), (b) graft survival (stratified by patient populations), (c) patient access to transplantation, (d) organ availability. NATCO believes that such variances, sharing arrangements and alternative local units should be monitored on a periodic basis and outcome data on such arrangements reported to the OPTN.