



Since 1984 — sharing organs, sharing data, sharing life.

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## Request for Information (RFI) Kidney Paired Donation Systems

### *Background*

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is a Virginia not-for-profit membership corporation that operates the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) under contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The OPTN contract is authorized by the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984, as amended (NOTA), and associated regulations (the Final Rule). Among the duties assigned to the OPTN are responsibilities for developing and operating a national computer system for matching candidates by which donor organs are allocated among all candidates who are registered with the national matching system. Those duties were limited traditionally to the allocation of organs from deceased donors. However, on June 16, 2006, HRSA announced in the Federal Register (Vol. 71, No. 116 @ 34948) that the Secretary of HHS was directing the OPTN under the Final Rule to develop policies regarding living donors and living organ donor recipients, including policies for the equitable allocation of living donor organs.

UNOS had previously formed a working group in January 2006 under the OPTN contract to investigate the concept of facilitating a national system for kidney paired donation. Based on the working group's recommendations, the Kidney Transplantation Committee had forwarded a concept proposal for a national KPD system for public comment in June 2006. However, that concept was unable to be implemented because UNOS had not been given authority under the OPTN contract to implement or operate such a system due to concerns that that the practice of paired donation of kidneys by living donors could be interpreted as involving the exchange of organs for "valuable consideration," which is prohibited by NOTA. In March 2007, the Department of Justice issued a memorandum that stated that the practice of paired donation of kidneys by living donors does *not* involve the exchange of organs for "valuable consideration" prohibited by NOTA. In light of the Justice Department memorandum's conclusions, HRSA has indicated that UNOS now has the authority to proceed, and UNOS is moving forward under its contract with HRSA with the development of a national kidney paired donation system, including the development of policies by the OPTN and implementation of a computer system to facilitate such matches.

### *Purpose*

As the OPTN contractor, UNOS is seeking information from those in the transplant community with experience in the area of kidney paired donation about software systems used to facilitate such matching of potential kidney recipients and donors. The information gained from this RFI will be used to develop a national kidney paired donation system in which any OPTN member institution that performs living kidney transplantation could choose to participate. All information provided will be considered in the development of this system, even if it is not incorporated in the initial system. As experience with kidney paired donation grows, the system

will be enhanced with additional options and functionality. Please note that in providing information or computer software to UNOS as a result of this request, you are consenting to its use by UNOS, as the OPTN contractor, and its members without compensation. Also, please understand that your providing information or computer software to UNOS will not entitle you to or vest any ownership or other proprietary rights in the system incorporating such information or software. Under its contract with HRSA, UNOS will be obligated to provide HRSA with a nonexclusive license for operation of any software at the end of the term of the contract.

*Instructions and Response Guidelines*

Please submit responses to the following questions. You are welcome to attach additional information to supplement your responses.

1. Would you be willing to share your software and expertise with UNOS at no cost?
2. Does your system have a single solution for each matching cycle or could it be adapted to have a single solution?
3. Does your system allow for both two- and three-way matches?
4. Does your system allow a candidate to list more than one donor in the system?
5. Please describe the technical platform on which your solution is based. This includes any software, hardware, storage, or database requirements.
6. What are the inputs required by your system? (include file format)
7. What are the outputs produced by your system? (include file format)
8. How does matching operate in your system? Does it employ an optimization algorithm? If so, please describe.
9. Would you be willing to either participate in conference calls or participate with the OPTN/UNOS Kidney Paired Donation Working Group and/or UNOS Staff to discuss your system further?
10. Would you be willing to come to UNOS Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia to present your software and matching system?

Your response will be reviewed by the OPTN/UNOS Kidney Paired Donation Working Group to aid it in the development of a national kidney paired donation system. Substantive input from the community is necessary to achieve the best national system. UNOS appreciates your response and your willingness to engage in dialogue. This is not a commitment on the part of the UNOS to enter into a contract as a result of this notice or to pay for any information received.

*Contact Information*

Clarification questions must be received via e-mail by November 12, 2007. You may email questions to Elizabeth Sleeman at sleemaef@unos.org. All responses should be submitted to Elizabeth Sleeman at sleemaef@unos.org by November 15, 2007. Please indicate in the subject line that the subject is “RFI for Kidney Paired Donation.”