

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@INDonorNetwork.org  
**Subject:** Confirmation of OPTN Submission

Dear [REDACTED]:

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) serves as the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) under contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Under that contract, UNOS staff review reported or identified patient safety and/or public health-related concerns associated with organ donation and transplantation occurring within the OPTN.

UNOS' Member Quality Department received your correspondence through the UNet<sup>SM</sup> Patient Safety Portal concerning both kidneys from donor [REDACTED]. Specifically, you have raised concerns that while cleaning the donor operating room after recovery, hospital staff inadvertently discarded both kidneys from the back table. Neither kidney was used for transplant due to concerns that sterility was possibly breached while the organs were in the trash.

Member Quality staff screen all reports to determine whether the matter suggests a time-sensitive and serious threat to patient safety or public health. If the matter is assessed as both time-sensitive and serious, this department acts quickly to alert UNOS leadership and OPTN MPSC leadership, and to work with OPTN member(s) to alleviate the threat. Member Quality staff also screen all reports to determine if there is a possible violation of OPTN bylaws, policies, and federal laws (OPTN obligations) associated with the matter. Reports that involve a possible violation of OPTN bylaws or policies are referred to the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC), and in some cases to the OPTN Board of Directors for further review.

The OPTN bylaws and policies guide the sequence of allocation and wait listing practices of OPTN members in an effort to assure a balance of fair and equitable organ allocation for transplant. The bylaws and policies also guide safe and effective practice connected to organ transplantation and living donor care. UNOS is responsible for monitoring compliance by OPTN members with OPTN obligations, as well as for processing reports of transplant-related patient safety and living donor safety.

Please be aware that this correspondence and all documents and information requested by UNOS staff, on behalf of the MPSC, are protected by applicable peer review statutes. For this reason, all associated reports, inquiries, deliberations, findings, recommendations, and actions must be kept confidential. This means we will not be able to provide you with the results of our investigation.

If you have any questions or need any additional information about the review process, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]. Once again, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. The transplant community relies on referrals such as yours to improve the OPTN system.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
*Safety Analyst*

**UNOS**™ UNITED NETWORK  
FOR ORGAN SHARING

[Ellen.Litkenhaus@unos.org](mailto:Ellen.Litkenhaus@unos.org)