

**Request for Proposal**  
**Kidney Paired Donation Pilot Program**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

On July 8, 2009, UNOS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to member institutions interested in participating in a pilot test of a national kidney paired donation (KPD) program. Since issuing the RFP, we have received many questions that may be helpful to all members who are considering submitting a proposal.

- Question 1: What is the duration of the pilot test?
- Question 2: Why are only a few programs initially going to be selected for the interim implementation?
- Question 3: Why does it appear that you're favoring larger programs over smaller programs with the minimum criteria?
- Question 4: Why is the response time to the RFP so short?
- Question 5: Which OPTN/UNOS Committees have been involved in the development of the KPD Pilot Program?
- Question 6: If an organization is proposing to be a coordinating center, what information do you from the participating centers?

Thank you for your questions and comments. Please continue to submit feedback to Elizabeth Sleeman at [sleemaef@unos.org](mailto:sleemaef@unos.org).

**Question 1: What is the duration of the pilot test?**

We are planning a phased implementation for the KPD Pilot Program. The pilot test or interim implementation will begin in September 2009 and last until the full implementation begins in December 2010 (approximately 1 year).

**Question 2: Why are only a few programs initially going to be selected for the interim implementation?**

The intent of this interim implementation is to allow UNOS to test its business processes before launching a fully national system in December 2010. As mentioned in the RFP, the intent of this interim implementation is to identify and address inefficiencies before the system is released for participation by any interested OPTN and UNOS member. Members with less experience with KPD will have the opportunity to participate in the full implementation of the KPD Pilot Program planned for the fourth quarter of 2010.

**Question 3: Why does it appear that you're favoring larger programs over smaller programs with the minimum criteria?**

The interim implementation is intentionally restricted to centers or existing consortiums with a great deal of experience with KPD. We are looking for groups that can help UNOS staff, the KPD Work Group, and the Kidney Committee develop best practices before bringing in centers with less experience. We believe this will create a smoother implementation for all involved. Preference is given to groups that can bring more pairs to the system. Our staffing resources are currently limited and the process for the interim implementation is not interfaced with UNet<sup>SM</sup> and is therefore more manual. As a result, we are looking for groups that can bring the largest number of pairs through a single point of contact. That being said, we encourage programs who may not meet the minimum requirements to pool their experiences and submit proposals for KPD coordinating centers.

When the full system is ready in December 2010, center participation in the KPD Pilot Program will be available to all centers, regardless of experience with KPD. Even if you do not wish to participate in the interim implementation, we will be providing educational materials over the next year so that you can be working to have pairs ready to enter the system as soon as the full implementation is available.

**Question 4: Why is the response time to the RFP so short?**

Our goal is to have a truly national program, but we also want to increase the likelihood of a successful program. We believe that doing this test run will increase the likelihood of success by allowing us to gain experience. We realize that the response time for the RFP is not long. The reason for this expedited timeframe is that the implementation date for the full system is December 2010 regardless of when we start the interim implementation. If we hope to learn anything from the interim implementation before we begin programming, we need to begin training the groups participating in the interim implementation in the middle of August. Because this turnaround time is so short, we have designed the questions in the RFP so that they can be answered quickly by applicants who have the necessary experience.

**Question 5: Which OPTN/UNOS Committees have been involved in the development of the KPD Pilot Program?**

Many Committees have been involved in the development of the KPD Pilot Program other than the Kidney Committee. Both the Living Donor Committee and the Histocompatibility Committee have helped to write the Operational Guidelines. Additionally, the KPD Work Group has representatives from the following Committees:

- Kidney Committee
- Histocompatibility Committee
- Living Donor Committee
- Patient Affairs Committee
- Minority Affairs Committee
- Transplant Administrators Committee
- Transplant Coordinators Committee
- Operations Committee

These representatives keep the full Committees informed on the ongoing work related to KPD. Many of these Committees are tasked with monitoring the KPD system as part of their annual goals. Please keep in mind that this is a pilot program, and that we expect to make adjustments as we move forward based on the results of the program and the feedback we receive from the participants, the Committees, and the transplant community in general.

**Question 6: If an organization is proposing to be a coordinating center, what information do you need from the participating centers?**

Ideally, your application should include documentation that states that the centers have agreed to work with you and that they agree to abide by the Operational Guidelines. We would recommend having the participating centers sign a 1-page document that includes the following information:

- <<Coordinating Center>> is exclusively acting as the coordinating center for my transplant center in the KPD Pilot Program (i.e. the center is not participating in the KPD Pilot Program through another group),
- the appropriate agreements and protections are in place to allow the <<Coordinating Center>> to handle my transplant center's patient information,
- my transplant center is an OPTN and UNOS approved member institution,
- my transplant center has submitted an application to become a living donor kidney transplant program, and
- my transplant center agrees to abide by the KPD Operational Guidelines.