



UNOS' FACEBOOK PAGE ADDS 'FANS'

UNOS' Facebook page has seen steady growth since its launch last April, and a recent report from Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., indicates that the page's yearlong growth is continuing.

During the week of April 12, UNOS' Facebook page added 216 Fans, for a total of 4,591, with nearly 100 wall posts, comments and "likes". In addition, the page had 1,179 visits, and 1,064 the previous week.

 Not yet a UNOS Facebook Fan? Visit facebook.com/UnitedNetworkForOrganSharing. And, while you're on Facebook, you're invited to "friend" Transplant Living and join the National Donor Memorial group as well.

Better than Ever

The OPTN Evaluation Plan is easier to access and use

In the March-April *Update* (p. 18), We're Listening focused on the OPTN Evaluation Plan. The Plan explains to OPTN/UNOS members how UNOS—as the OPTN contractor—assesses member compliance with OPTN policies and bylaws.

Updated quarterly, the plan provides important assistance to members before, during and after UNOS' various compliance reviews. Staff in UNOS' department of evaluation and quality (DEQ), who developed the plan,* are always seeking ways to make it easier and more efficient for members to use. On June 30, DEQ released a quarterly update of the plan that also includes significant improvements to make the plan more user-friendly. Primary improvements are described below.

'AT A GLANCE' SECTION

One of the most anticipated improvements is the creation of an "At a Glance" section at the beginning of the plan. The new section highlights specific additions, changes or deletions to OPTN/UNOS policy since the plan's last quarterly update. In that section and elsewhere, hyperlinks will take users directly to the pertinent policy section (e.g., directly to policy 3.1.2 and not just to the beginning of policy 3.1).

Because of the volume of the Evaluation Plan, those direct links may be phased in over a few quarterly updates.

INCREASED GUIDANCE

The new-and-improved plan also will include increased guidance on how members can best comply with policies that are identified by UNOS allocation analysts or frequently cited by its site surveyors.

The plan also will include increased guidance on policy compliance issues addressed by the OPTN/UNOS membership and professional standards committee (MPSC). (For pertinent background, see "MPSC Releases List of Most Common Policy Violations," May–June 2008 *Update*, p. 20.)


There also will be increased guidance on issues identified through members' interactions with UNOS committee liaisons and regional administrators as well as with UNOS HelpDesk and Organ Center staff.


LINKS IN E-NEWSLETTER

For additional ease of access to the Evaluation Plan, UNOS' member consolidated e-newsletter will include a link to the plan on those months when the plan is updated. The e-newsletter is monthly, so it will include a link to the quarterly evaluation plan every three months.

Not receiving the e-newsletter but would like to be added to the distribution list? Send an e-mail to unoscommunications@unos.org.

MORE IS COMING

Also under way is including a "mini" monitoring and evaluation plan along with policies sent out for public comment. The mini-plans will let members know in advance what they need to do in order to comply with the policy modifications if they are adopted. 

 To see (and use) the plan, visit <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov> (policy management > evaluation plan).

*Developing the Evaluation Plan was an OPTN task described in UNOS' contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration and carried out by DEQ with input from the UNOS board of directors.