


UNOS PATIENT INFORMATION LETTER


When candidates have a change in their status on the transplant waiting list, they receive a **patient notification letter** from the transplant center *notifying* them that they've been added to the waiting list, *notifying* that they've been removed from the waiting list or *notifying* them that they don't qualify to be on the waiting list.

When the transplant center sends a patient *notification* letter, the center is required by OPTN/UNOS policy* to include—pay attention—a **patient information letter** from UNOS. The *information* letter from UNOS is something of a misnomer because the “letter,” recently redesigned by the OPTN/UNOS patient affairs committee, could now more accurately be called a one-page, easy-to-read informational flyer (see right).

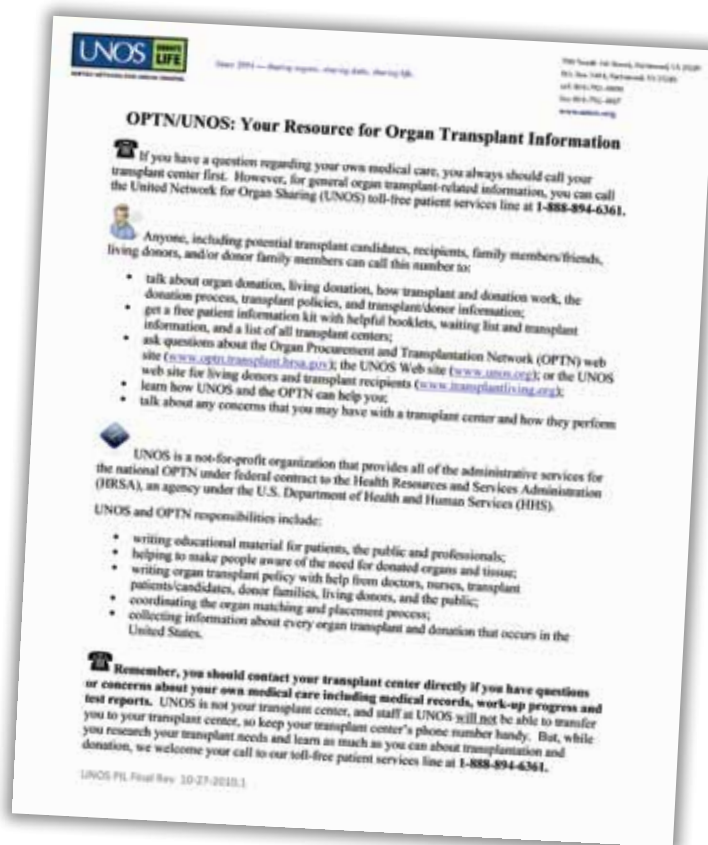
UNOS' new-and-improved patient *information* letter is now available on the OPTN website for centers to download for distribution along with their own notification letters.

Until April 21, transplant centers may continue to use copies of UNOS' patient information letter that they have on hand. After April 21, centers must begin to use the newly revised patient information letter from UNOS available on the OPTN website.

UNOS' department of evaluation and quality will offer a webinar in March on how transplant centers can stay in compliance with the OPTN/UNOS bylaw on patient notification. Visit UNOS' communication archive, <http://communication.unos.org>, for more information on the upcoming webinar. 

 The UNOS patient information letter is available on the OPTN website for centers to download and distribute. Visit <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov> (resources > professional resources > patient information letter).

*OPTN bylaws, appendix B, section 11, F.




GETTING HELP


APPLYING FOR NLDAC ASSISTANCE

If you're considering being a living donor but can't afford the associated expenses, the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) may be able to help. NLDAC is a federally funded program* launched in 2007 to lessen the financial burden of travel and subsistence expenses toward living donation.

Applications for assistance (in preference categories 1–3) are sent to the NLDAC's assistance review committee (ARC) every Monday, and a decision is made by Thursday of the same week.

ARC has representation from the National Kidney Foundation, the Society for Transplant Social Workers and NATCO—the Organization for Transplant Professionals. Members are Dianne LaPointe-Rudow, D.N.P., director, Center for Living Donation, Mount Sinai Medical Center for Living Donation, New York City, and a past member of the executive committee

of the OPTN/UNOS board of directors; Julie LaMantia, LCSW, Banner Good Samaritan Transplant Center, Phoenix; kidney recipient Debra Washington, B.A., SFC (Ret.), Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Holly Warren, RN, B.A., CPTC, American Society of Transplant Surgeons; and Iby Diaz, J.D., international banking analyst. Warren and Diaz are NLDAC's program coordinator and program assistant coordinator, respectively. 

 For more information, including income criteria and preference categories, visit the website, livingdonorassistance.org.

*This program is administered by the Division of Transplantation, Health Care Systems Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Health and Human Services, through a cooperative agreement with the University of Michigan and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.