ORGAN ALLOCATION — HOW IS IT DECIDED WHO RECEIVES THE ORGANS FROM AN ORGAN-DONOR?

Matching & Allocating Organs:
The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) maintains a centralized computer network (UNetSM), which links all organ procurement organizations (OPOs, like OneLegacy) and transplant centers, in a secure, real-time environment. UNOS is under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Services & Resources Administration (HRSA) and their computer network is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When the OPO enters the donor patient physical details, including lab results, ABOs, height, weight, HLAs, etc. into UNetSM, it then automatically matches all potential recipients and generates a ranked list of patients suitable to receive each organ. The list is called a “match run”.

Factors affecting ranking include:

* Tissue match (HLA labs)
* ABOs
* Length of time on the waiting list
* Immune status, i.e. the likelihood of the recipient’s body rejecting the organ
* Distance between the potential recipient and the donor, i.e. organs are allocated locally first
* Degree of medical urgency (for heart, liver, lungs, intestines), i.e. prioritizing the sickest patient

Five Steps of the Matching Process

1. An organ is donated: The OPO enters the donor details (see above) into UNetSM.
2. UNOS generates a list of potential recipients: This list is automatically generated by UNetSM (see above).
3. The transplant center is notified of an available organ: The transplant center which listed the potential recipient is notified of the potentially available organ.
4. The transplant team considers the organ for the patient: The transplant team has to consider their acceptance or refusal of the organ offer based upon medical criteria, the condition of the offered organ, the condition of their potential recipient, staff and patient availability and transportation. By UNOS policy, the transplant team has one hour to make a decision.
5. The organ is accepted or declined: If the organ is accepted, the OPO will back up the organ with another potential recipient as sometimes the originally intended recipient may become too sick or dies, in which case the back-up candidate will receive the organ. If the organ is declined, the OPO will continue to offer it for patients at other centers until it is allocated.

Ref: www.unos.org
http://www.transplantliving.org/beforethetransplant/allocation/matchingorgans.aspx

24-Hour Referral of all Imminent Brain Death and Cardiac Deaths should be made to

1-800-338-6112