

Better Measures. Better Outcomes.

Independently validated performance measures designed to drive **continuous quality improvement** across organ donation and transplantation.

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The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) is building a continuous quality improvement system for organ donation and transplantation—anchored by eight independently validated, data-driven performance measures that reflect the work Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) actually do. Together, these measures and the improvement work they enable give OPOs, hospitals, and transplant centers a shared foundation for advancement.

At a Glance

What we're building: Eight independently validated performance measures spanning the full OPO donation process—from hospital referral through organ utilization and patient safety—built on the CMS-recommended Donabedian framework (structure, process, outcome).

Who's involved: OPOs, donor hospitals, transplant centers, patients and families, and regulators—each with a role in development, implementation, and ongoing improvement.

What they enable: A continuous quality improvement cycle built for learning. OPOs use the data to spot variation, test changes, share what works, and confirm gains hold.

Where we are now: Four measures submitted for Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM) endorsement consideration in Spring 2026; four more in development for Fall 2026 submission, with phased rollout and quality improvement support.

Why Validated Performance Measures

With shared, validated measures, OPOs can reliably compare practices, find opportunities to improve, and know whether changes are working.

That's what makes continuous quality improvement possible.

- + Shared definitions so OPOs, hospitals, and transplant centers can compare practices and learn from each other.
- + Comparability through risk adjustment, where appropriate, so comparisons reflect real differences in practice and account for differences in patient mix.
- + Actionable signals OPOs can act on in near real time, supporting day-to-day improvement.
- + Trust and usability grounded in independent validation, transparent methods, and stakeholder consensus, so the data are credible enough to act on.

AOPO's Approach

AOPO has partnered with Econometrica, Inc., to develop measures through the CMS Blueprint Measure Lifecycle—the federal framework for valid, reliable, and usable measurement. Every choice along the way has been made with quality improvement in mind: that the measures be actionable for OPOs, meaningful to hospitals and transplant centers, and trustworthy for regulators. The process is grounded in stakeholder input, expert review, feasibility testing, transparency, and ongoing maintenance.

How These Measures Drive Continuous Quality Improvement



The measures are designed to power a continuous Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle—a well-established quality improvement method used across healthcare to test, refine, and scale change.

Plan. OPOs use measure data to identify variation, examine root causes, set improvement aims, and design specific tests of change tailored to their workflows, hospital partners, and donor populations.

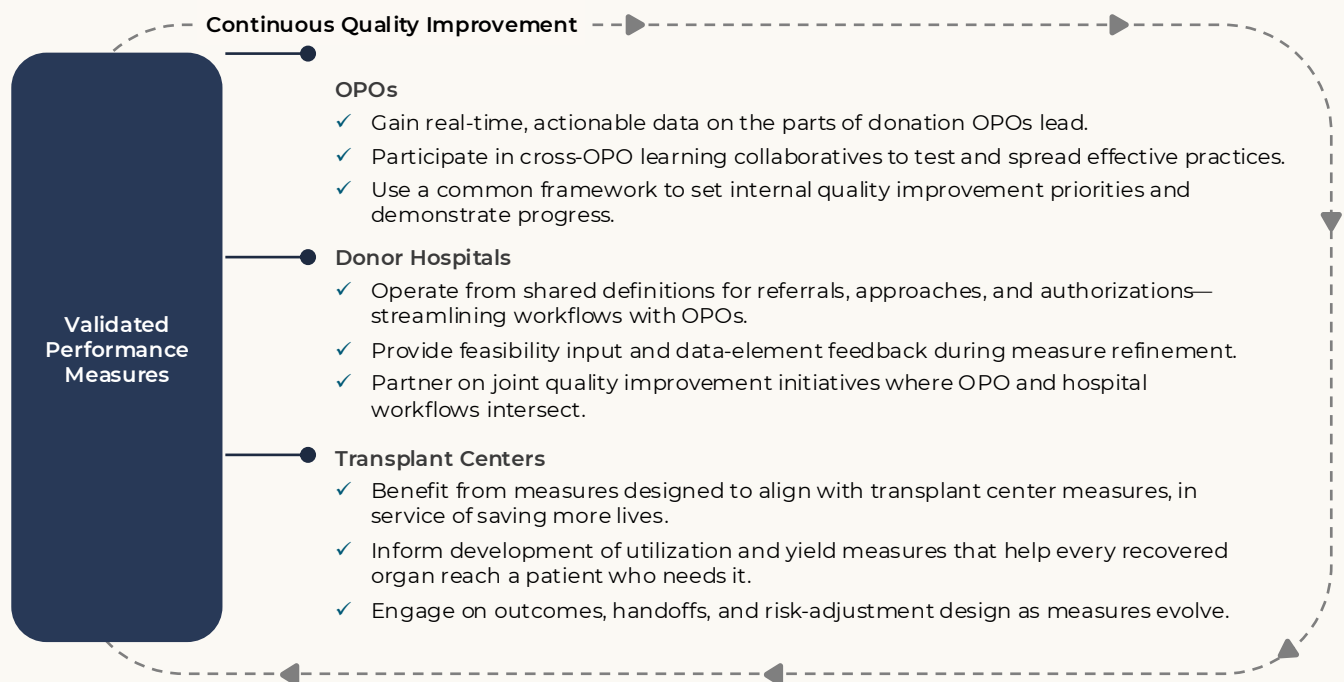
Do. OPOs implement those tests on a small scale, capturing what happens in real conditions.

Study. OPOs remeasure to assess impact. AOPO-hosted peer-learning forums help OPOs compare results, share root-cause analyses, and surface the practices behind strong performance.

Act. OPOs adopt what works, refine what's promising, and carry lessons into the next cycle. Effective practices spread across the field through learning collaboratives, shared playbooks, and AOPO-led technical assistance.

The result is a system where every OPO has the tools, data, and peer support to keep getting better—and where improvement is built into the model from the start.

What This Means for Stakeholders



AOPO's measure work is a foundation for what comes next: a continuous, transparent, collaborative effort to deliver more organs, better outcomes, and stronger trust across the donation and transplantation system.

For more information on the OPO Performance Measurement Project, please visit: www.aopo.org/opo-metrics-project.

