

Donor Management Goals (DMG) Bundle Measure Fact Sheet

Version October 2026

Donor Management Goals (DMG) Bundle Measure

This measure is the percentage of donation after brain death (DBD) donors for whom an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) achieves at least 7 of 9 designated critical care endpoints in the OPO's Donation Service Area (DSA) in a calendar year.

DMG Bundle Per Calendar Year:

Number of DBD Donors for Whom the DMG Bundle Was Met, Defined as Achieving Any 7 of 9 Physiologic Parameters (DMGs) Prior to Organ Recovery

Number of DBD Donors Who Went to the Operating Room and Had At Least One Organ Recovered for Transplantation in an OPO's DSA in a Calendar Year

Overview

AOPO and Quality Improvement

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) leads the nation's organ donation community with a clear mission: save more lives. Central to that mission is a commitment to continuous quality improvement — advancing donation and transplantation practices, collaborating with stakeholders, and sharing best practices across its OPO member network.

In 2025, AOPO launched the Organ Procurement Organization Performance Measurement Project to redefine how OPO performance is measured. The project aims to create independently validated, scientifically sound, data-driven metrics aligned with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) measurement framework — promoting quality improvement, transparency, trust, and stakeholder alignment while accounting for medically complex donors and the operational realities of the donation and transplantation system.

Background on DMG

DMGs are critical care endpoints used to assess how well a DBD organ donor is medically managed after authorization for donation. These goals include physiologic parameters such as blood pressure, oxygenation, fluid balance, blood glucose, sodium, urine output, and use of vasopressors. These parameters provide a uniform way to evaluate whether important aspects of donor physiology are maintained during the period leading to organ recovery. The critical care endpoints help standardize donor care and support quality assurance and performance improvement activities by OPOs. Measuring DMGs is important because the quality of donor management can affect how many organs can ultimately be transplanted and how well those organs function after transplantation.

DMG: Why It's a Priority

- + If an OPO's organ yield is lower than expected, DMG data can help identify whether donor management is an area for an OPO to focus their process improvement efforts.
- + DMG performance allows OPOs to evaluate whether evidence-based donor-management practices, which are associated with better graft survival, are being achieved (Bloom et al., 2015).
- + Adopting this quality measure on a national scale has the potential to result in more organs being available for transplantation, with more lives saved and a decrease in healthcare expenditures for patients with end-stage organ failure in need of transplant.

A study by Malinoski et al. (2012) provided a foundational association between achieving DMGs and a greater number of organs recovered. The DMG measure is significant because it connects the clinical care process of managing the donor's condition to the number of organs transplanted. DMGs provide information on how the donor's medical care was managed and whether evidence-based clinical targets were met. The DMGs represent a checklist of critical care endpoints that reflect the normal physiologic goals of any critically ill patient.

Measure Specifications

The DMG Bundle measure is the percentage of DBD donors for whom an OPO achieves at least 7 of 9 designated critical care endpoints in the OPO's DSA in a calendar year. It is calculated at the OPO level and expressed as a rate per 100 donors. See the definitions section of this document for relevant terms and definitions.

Numerator and denominator data for this measure are drawn from the DMG Registry. Refer to the AOPO Data Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document for the DMG Bundle measure for details on data standardization and measure calculation.

DMG Bundle Per Calendar Year:

Numerator

- ▶ The numerator is the number of donation after brain death donors for whom the OPO met the DMG Bundle, defined as achieving any 7 of the 9 physiologic parameters (DMGs) prior to organ recovery in the calendar year.
- ▶ The 9 critical care endpoints are Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP), Central Venous Pressure/Stroke Volume Variation/Pulse Pressure Variation (CVP/SVV/PPV), Ejection Fraction/Fractional Shortening (EF/SF), Arterial Blood Gas pH (ABG), P:F Ratio (PO₂/FiO₂), Sodium, Glucose, Urine Output, and Low-dose Vasopressors.
- ▶ There are also specific DMGs for pediatric populations, with alterations in the parameters based on donor age and weight. The DMGs are assessed at the end of the OPO organ donor management process, prior to organ recovery.
- ▶ Numerator data source: DMG Registry.

Number of DBD Donors for Whom the DMG Bundle Was Met, Defined as Achieving Any 7 of 9 Physiologic Parameters (DMGs) Prior to Organ Recovery

Number of DBD Donors Who Went to the Operating Room and Had At Least One Organ Recovered for Transplantation in an OPO's DSA in a Calendar Year

Denominator

- ▶ The denominator is the number of DBD donors who went to the operating room and had at least one organ recovered for the purpose of transplantation in an OPO's DSA in a calendar year.
- ▶ Denominator data source: DMG Registry.

Definitions

Calendar Year

Time between 12:00 a.m. on January 1 of a calendar year and 11:59 p.m. on December 31 of that same year. A death is attributed to the calendar year based on the time of death as recorded on the death certificate.

Donor

A deceased individual from whom at least one organ was recovered for transplant, regardless of whether the organ was transplanted. An individual would also be considered a donor if only the pancreas is procured and is used for islet cell research or transplantation.

Organ

Human kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas, or intestine. Double/en-bloc kidneys or double/en-bloc lungs count as two organs. Organ segments count as an individual organ.

Organs Recovered for Research

The number of organs recovered with the intent of transplant and subsequently determined to be unsuitable and then designated for research; or organs recovered with the intent of research. Research must occur at an institution or organization that has an ongoing program of research to improve transplantation or support the discovery of cures for organ-related conditions, such as diabetes.

Recovered Organs

Organs recovered for the purpose of transplant, regardless of whether it is transplanted or used successfully.

Transplant

Organ transplants include solid organ transplants and islet infusions. An organ transplant begins at the start of organ anastomosis or the start of an islet infusion.

An organ transplant procedure is complete when any of the following occurs:

- The chest or abdominal cavity is closed and the final skin stitch or staple is applied.
 - The transplant recipient leaves the operating room, even if the chest or abdominal cavity cannot be closed.
 - The islet infusion is complete.
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Transplanted Organ

Human kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas, or intestine that was recovered from a donor and transplanted into a recipient.

Resources

- ▶ Bloom, M. B.; Raza, S.; Bhakta, A.; Ewing, T.; Patel, M.; Ley, E. J.; Margulies, D. R.; Salim, A.; Malinoski, D. (2015). Impact of Deceased Organ Donor Demographics and Critical Care End Points on Liver Transplantation and Graft Survival Rates. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, 220(1), 38-47. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2014.09.020>.
- ▶ Malinoski, D., Patel, M. S., Daly, M., Oley-Graybill, C., & Salim, A., & UNOS Region 5 DMG workgroup (2012). The impact of meeting donor management goals on the number of organs transplanted per donor: Results from the United Network for Organ Sharing Region 5 prospective donor management goals study. *Critical Care Medicine*, 40(10), 2773-2780. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0b013e31825b252a>.
- ▶ The specific values for the DMG parameters are available on the DMG Registry site: <https://dmginfo.nationaldmg.org/about/>.