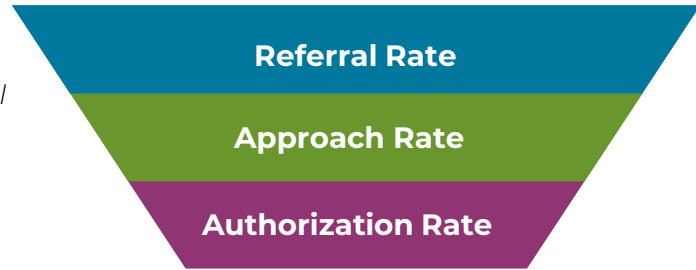


Measure Spotlight: Referral, Approach, Authorization

Through a rigorous and extensive research process, AOPO, in collaboration with 53 OPOs and a third-party research organization, Econometrica, Inc., has developed new potential quality measures to support the organ donation process.

These three measures track how effectively potential organ donation opportunities are identified and engaged.

version June 2026



Referral Rate

Rate of hospital referrals of potential organ donors made to the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) from within the OPO's donation service area (DSA) in a calendar year.

Purpose

This measure is important because it promotes standardized practices for the timely referral of potential donors. This measure tells us how well OPOs are engaging their donor hospitals, to tailor education and outreach to hospital staff.

Rate Calculation

Number of ventilated patients in the OPO's DSA referred to the OPO in a calendar year, regardless of whether a donation actually resulted

Number of the potential donor population in the OPO's DSA in the calendar year

$$\frac{\text{Number of ventilated patients referred}}{\text{Number of potential donor population}} = \text{Rate of referrals per 100 potential donor population deaths}$$

Approach Rate

Rate of referred patients that are approached for an organ donation in the Organ Procurement Organization's (OPO's) donation service area (DSA) in a calendar year.

Purpose

This measure is important because it supports OPO accountability for activity which is entirely within OPO control. This measure tells us the extent to which meaningful approaches are made by OPO staff.

Rate Calculation

Number of referred potential donors that are approached for an organ donation in the OPO's DSA in a calendar year

Number of patients referred to the OPO in the OPO's DSA in a calendar year

$$\frac{\text{Number of referred potential donors approached}}{\text{Number of patients referred}} = \text{Rate of approaches per 100 referrals}$$

Authorization Rate

Authorization Rate for organ donation among approached, referred potential organ donors in the Organ Procurement Organization's (OPO's) donation service area (DSA) in a calendar year.

Purpose

This measure is important because it helps OPOs identify opportunities for improvement in their authorization process. This measure tells us how effectively OPOs cultivate rapport and provide decision-making support to potential donor families.

Rate Calculation

Number of authorizations from referred potential donors in the OPO's DSA in a calendar year

Number of approaches made to referrals or their next of kin for organ donation in the OPO's DSA in a calendar year

$$\frac{\text{Number of authorizations}}{\text{Number of approaches}} = \text{Rate of referrals per 100 potential donor population deaths}$$

For the detailed calculation procedure, please reference the applicable measure factsheet and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).