

## **New Electronic Organ Notification System Implemented in U.S.**

On December 9, the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) implemented changes to its DonorNet<sup>®</sup> Internet-based organ placement system, to enable organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to electronically notify multiple centers simultaneously when a donated organ becomes available for a patient. UNOS, the organization that operates the nation's organ transplantation system through a contract with the federal government, worked closely with the government and representatives from the transplant and organ procurement community to develop the new system.

The new features of DonorNet<sup>®</sup> will enable OPOs to make multiple simultaneous organ offers using current telecommunications technologies to improve the efficiency of the allocation process. As such, multiple transplant centers have the opportunity to view uniform donor information online efficiently via remote laptop or PDA and respond to the offer electronically through the system. The new process enables the donor coordinator to focus their limited time and resources on those transplant centers that have indicated interest in the organ.

The new DonorNet<sup>®</sup> enhances the transplant community's traditional communications processes of phone and fax with the addition of electronic text and voice communications via various mobile devices. In development for nearly 4 years, the new system is designed to enhance patient safety, track offers and acceptance activities across the country, ensure compliance with national policies and bring greater efficiency to organ notification and evaluation processes.

Beginning December 9, the system is being used on a voluntary basis across the country. Between now and April 30, 2007 when the system will be required by OPTN policy, centers and OPOs will be learning the systems, establishing how it will be applied to best suit local practices, and developing best practices scenarios to share with the rest of the country.

For more information on the new DonorNet<sup>®</sup> system, visit [www.DonorNet2007.net](http://www.DonorNet2007.net).