
Policy 3.1.2: ABO Verification Prior to Implant

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is there a specific OPTN/UNOS endorsed ABO verification form?

No. Currently there is no specific OPTN/UNOS endorsed verification form. Each transplant center may establish its own format for documenting ABO verification, as long as the required information can be found during the site survey. In other words, while all the data points (checklist below) must be identified, policy does not require them to all be on one form. However, using a single form may make the center's quality assurance process more streamlined and the site surveyor's verification of compliance easier.

What will UNOS site surveyors ask for during your site survey?

Site surveyors will ask for these two items:

1. A copy of your center's ABO verification prior to transplant policy or procedure.
2. A copy of your center's ABO verification prior to transplant form or Electronic Medical Record (EMR) verification printout.

If your center does not use a verification form, we will ask you to show us how the verification procedure is documented.

What else can transplant centers expect during your site survey?

Site surveyors will talk to staff involved in the ABO verification process and may ask:

- Staff to describe the ABO verification process in detail.
- What specific items the staff looks for during verification.
- When verification takes place.
- Where verification takes place.
- What source document are you using?
- How is donor ID verified?
- Who does the verification?
- How is verification documented?
- What is your internal quality assurance (QA) process?

Policy 3.1.2 states:

Upon receipt of an organ, prior to implantation, the transplant center is responsible for verifying the recorded donor ABO with the recorded ABO of the intended recipient [effective: 2/1/04] and UNOS Donor ID number [effective: 9/1/07]. These actions must be documented and are subject to review upon audit.

Checklist of items site surveyors will verify when documenting compliance with policy 3.1.2:

- Time of organ arrival at the transplant center (this allows the site surveyor to see that the verification occurred after receipt of the organ and that the verification occurred using documentation that accompanied the organ rather than remotely).*
- Electronic or written verification of donor and recipient ABO and Donor ID.*
- Date/time of verification must be identified (this may be different than the date and time of the surgeon's signature).*
- Time of implantation or anastomosis (or surgical start time if verification occurred prior to surgery starting). This information may be found in the operating room records if it is not on the center's ABO verification form.*
- If the organ was procured in the recipient hospital, verification after procurement and prior to implantation is still required (i.e. separate from verification prior to recovery).*