

HISTORY

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

1954:
First successful U.S. organ transplant performed in Boston (between living twin brothers).

Late '50s to early '60s:
Development of immuno-suppressant medications led to the successful transplant of organs from unrelated deceased donors.

1968:
Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) proposed a model law to govern donation; it passed in all 50 states.

1971:
LifeChoice, then called Hartford OPO (HOPO), operated as the organ procurement organization for the Hartford Transplant Program.

1981:
Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA) defined death as either the irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain, including the brain stem.

1984:
National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) was passed to ensure fair and equitable allocation of organs for transplant; NOTA also prohibited the sale of human organs for transplant.

1988:
HOPO was designated by CMS (formerly HCFA) as the hospital-based OPO for six Connecticut counties.

1990s:
Federal Medicare regulations began requiring hospitals to report all deaths and imminent deaths to the local organ procurement organization.

1994:
Service area expansion to include three counties in western MA and affiliation with Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Program. HOPO's name changed to NorthEast Organ Procurement Organization (NEOPO).

2002:
LifeChoice became an independent OPO and moved its office to Windsor, CT.

2010-2012:
Revisions to the UAGA Act passed in CT (2010).
Revision to the UAGA Act passed in MA (2012).