

New *CJASN* Feature: Public Policy Series

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Introduction

In this issue of *CJASN*, we launch a new series designed to provide a perspective on current policy issues, as well as to introduce the reader to the various agencies and offices of the federal government that influence the practice of nephrology.

From time to time, we will invite articles on important public policy issues that affect nephrology. We begin our series with two articles by Drs. William Bennett and Kevin McEvoy (see pages 2308–2309) and Drs. Peter Reese and Arthur Caplan (see pages 2310–2312) on the new organ allocation policy recently proposed by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The first discusses the practical effect of the proposed policy, while the second explores the ethical issues raised by the proposed change.

While all of us are familiar with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are other

agencies and offices that directly or indirectly affect the practice of nephrology.

Our “tour” of these agencies and offices begins next month with an introduction to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), written by its director, Dr. Carolyn Clancy. As we move into a world of evidence-based medicine (and reimbursement), AHRQ is the agency that will have the lead in supporting studies to assess new technologies. Future articles will feature the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA), which deals with workforce issues as well as administering the post-transplant immunosuppression program and others.

We hope you will find this series educational and informative, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

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