

**HEALTH**

**THE COMMISSIONER**

**Certificate of Need Call for Applications for Organ Transplantation Services**

**Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a)2, 8:33Q, and 8:43G**

**Take notice** that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., and the provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a), Dr. Raynard Washington, Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (Department), is inviting certificate of need (CN) applications on a full review basis to establish new adult and pediatric heart and lung transplantation services following the provisions at N.J.A.C. 8:33Q and 8:43G and N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.

The Department has determined that there are high outmigration rates for transplantation services in New Jersey. Nearly 70 percent of adult heart transplant procedures for New Jersey residents take place out-of-State, primarily in New York and Pennsylvania. Additionally, 84 percent of adult lung transplants are performed out-of-State. For pediatric patients, the outmigration rate is 100 percent for both heart and lung transplant procedures. These trends highlight and underscore a critical gap in access to in-State transplantation services. The next scheduled certificate of need call for solid organ transplant services is set for April 1, 2028. Given the data demonstrating significant outmigration trends, the Department is issuing this call prior to the next scheduled call for these services, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a)4.

While the Department recognizes this gap in transplantation services in the State, it is also cognizant of the fact that issues, including the availability of organs,

must also factor into the determination of the sustainability of a transplant program. Accordingly, the Department is not specifying a fixed number of programs that will be approved. Rather, decisions will be based upon the quality, feasibility, and alignment of each application with certificate of need statutory and regulatory standards, and the number of awards will depend upon the strength of the proposals received and the data provided by the applicants.

Currently, six providers in four different counties are licensed for transplantation services:

Bergen County

Hackensack University Medical Center: Kidney, Pancreas, and Pediatric Kidney

Camden County

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center: Liver, Kidney, Pancreas, and Kidney-Pancreas

Essex County

Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center: Kidney, Pancreas, Kidney-Pancreas, and Pediatric Kidney

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center: Heart, Lung, Kidney

University Hospital: Liver

Middlesex County

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital: Heart, Kidney, Pancreas, and Kidney-Pancreas, and Pediatric Kidney

**Application Information**

N.J.A.C. 8:33Q sets forth CN requirements for new and existing transplantation services; additional requirements are listed in several sections of the general hospital rules at N.J.A.C. 8:43G. The CN applications will be reviewed for compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions. In addition to the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:33 and 8:33Q, the Department will require applicants to demonstrate need by assessing demand trends, including transplant growth and national benchmarking data. Applicants must evaluate organ availability, allocation patterns, and whether the existing supply can support new programs.

In addition to general acute care hospitals licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43G applying for adult heart and/or lung transplant services, the Department invites any existing transplantation services provider that is currently designated as a children's hospital to apply to implement a pediatric heart and/or lung transplantation service. Hospitals that are not currently transplantation service providers but are designated children's hospitals are also invited pursuant to this call to apply for a CN to implement pediatric heart and lung transplantation services.

Geographic areas to be served: Statewide.

Prospective applicants may obtain a CN application for full review (CN-3) on the Department's website at [www.nj.gov/health/forms](http://www.nj.gov/health/forms) and shall submit the completed application using electronic media to [cnl-surveys@doh.nj.gov](mailto:cnl-surveys@doh.nj.gov) with the subject "Organ Transplant CN Call" with a written copy to:

New Jersey State Department of Health

Organ Transplant CN Call

PO Box 358

Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-1.2(d), CN applications shall be reviewed for conformity with the rules in effect on the date the CN application is deemed complete for processing.

Date application is due: September 1, 2026.

Date completeness review decision is anticipated to be issued: December 1, 2026.

Date State Health Planning Board is scheduled to review applications and submit recommendations to the Commissioner: March 1, 2027.