

## Organ Transplant Coordinator

### ■ Job Description

An organ transplant coordinator oversees the organ transplant process. This includes locating donor organs; arranging transportation for organs; coordinating transplants; consulting with physicians, surgeons, and hospital staff; and conferring with and counseling recipients and recipients' families.

Transplant coordinators practice in two primary areas: (1) organ procurement and (2) clinical recipient care. *Procurement transplant coordinators* facilitate the organ donation process. Responsibilities include educating the public and health team members; developing donor programs; identifying and evaluating donors; counseling potential donor families; and managing donors, surgical recovery, and organ distribution. *Clinical transplant coordinators* facilitate the transplantation process, providing continuity of care for the recipient. Responsibilities include evaluating living donors and recipients, educating patients, educating the public and health team members, and coordinating post-transplant follow-up.

### ■ Job Settings

Several different organizations and institutions require transplant coordinators. There are 264 transplant centers and 62 organ procurement agencies in the country. These agencies and centers may be hospital-based, independent, or university-based.

### ■ Projected Need

The number of people waiting for organ donations is increasing creating a need for more donors. A number of organizations have been developed to promote organ donations. These efforts require the skills of transplant coordinators. Turnover among procurement transplant coordinators is high due to the sometimes long and irregular hours and the stress level of the job. Many procurement coordinators move on to other positions after only 18 months or less. This means continued job opportunities for those looking for work as coordinators.

### ■ Salaries

Many transplant coordinators are registered nurses. Median wages for registered nurses are \$22.44 per hour and range from \$18.85 to \$26.88. Some transplant coordinators are physician assistants who have median earnings of \$30.75 per hour. Salaries vary based on level of education, experience and responsibilities of the coordinator.

### ■ Related Careers

Rehabilitation therapist, organ preservation technician, transplant surgeon, health care public relations specialist, and health educator

### ■ Differences in Training

There is no specific educational track for transplant coordinators. However, a nursing degree does provide a good medical background. A bachelor's degree in one of the sciences, along with experience in a medical setting, will open up job opportunities. Some people may have master's degrees in public health or in business administration. Other coordinators may hold doctorates in psychology or social work.

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/>. You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.*

[Registered Nursing](#)

[Physician Assisting](#)

### ■ Credentials

Voluntary certification is available through the American Board of Transplant Coordinators. The Certified Procurement Transplant Coordinator (CPTC) and Certified Clinical Transplant Coordinator (CCTC) credentials are available to coordinators who have worked in the field for a minimum of one year and passed the certification exam.

In 2004, the American Board of Transplant Coordinators will begin to award a third certification credential to qualified bedside nurses responsible for the care of transplant patients.

■ **Resources**

North American Transplant Coordinators  
Organization  
8310 Neiman Road  
P.O. Box 15384  
Lenexa, KS 66285-5384  
Phone: 913.492.3600  
E-mail: [natco-info@goAMP.com](mailto:natco-info@goAMP.com)  
<http://www.natcol.org>

American Board of Transplant Coordinators  
P.O. Box 15384  
Lenexa, KS 66285-5384  
Phone: 913.599.0198  
<http://www.abtc.net>

International Transplant Nurses Society  
1739 East Carson Street, Box 351  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1700  
Phone: 412.343.4867  
E-mail: [itns@msn.com](mailto:itns@msn.com)  
<http://www.itns.org>