



The Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model Evaluation

Kidney transplantation is widely recognized as the best treatment for patients with ESRD. Unfortunately, there are far more patients awaiting transplants than available organs. Many patients experience long wait times or die before receiving a transplant, and approximately a third of transplantable kidneys recovered annually are discarded. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the **[Increasing Organ Transplant Access \(IOTA\) Model](#)** to address long-standing challenges in kidney transplantation and improve outcomes for patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

This six-year, mandatory model began on July 1, 2025. IOTA provides performance-based financial incentives for selected transplant hospitals to:



increase kidney transplant volume,



improve efficiency (such as kidney offer acceptance), and



enhance quality of care.

By giving IOTA transplant hospitals flexibility in how they respond to incentives, the model is expected to generate a wide range of innovative strategies to expand access and improve care delivery. To support a rigorous evaluation, CMS randomized approximately half of the country to participate in IOTA, creating a strong foundation for evaluating the model's impacts.

The **[IOTA Model Evaluation](#)** identifies model evidence of what works, for whom, and how to achieve lasting improvements in patient outcomes. CMS awarded the task of evaluating the IOTA Model to the **[American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#)** and partner **[Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute \(HHRI\)](#)**.

AIR and HHRI will conduct a mixed-methods evaluation integrating quantitative analysis with on-the-ground insights from stakeholders in both IOTA and non-IOTA areas, including organ procurement organizations, transplant centers, clinicians, and patients.

Photo from [Unsplash](#).

For questions about the IOTA Model, please contact cmmitransplant@cms.hhs.gov.
For questions about the IOTA evaluation or if you're interested in contributing insights, please contact IOTAeval@air.org.