



Loyola University Medical Center
2160 S First Ave.
Maywood, Illinois 60153
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Jessica Labuda, Heart Transplant Program Manager

Heart Transplant SRTR Response

Thank you for taking a moment to review some additional information about our program. We would like to begin by highlighting the following accomplishments of the program implemented through an evidence-based approach

- **Transplant volumes remain at a steady rate this year**
- **The implementation of organ transportation devices that allow the program to procure organs safely from farther distances**

The measure of concern with our program reflected in this report is a combination of increased graft failure/patient death within the first year of transplant. Our commitment remains to provide our patients with the highest level of quality care. Thus, our program takes deep dives into each graft failure/patient death to find opportunities for improvement and progress. In 2018, the allocation score changed, lowering our volume and requiring us to re-strategize our approach to transplantation. There is also a recognition that the program is nestled in Region Seven, a highly saturated transplant region with 10 transplant centers within 200 miles. We spent significant time as a multidisciplinary team reviewing our processes and finding improvement areas. Below are the action items taken to address the issues immediately.

- **Adding a Transplant Cardiologists to the program to increase referral volumes**
- **Referral base expansion to include the VA hospital system as well as sister hospitals within our organization**
- **Program continues to maintain a steady transplant volume annually with recognition of challenges that caring for this complex patient population brings to an already existing strained healthcare climate**
- **Re-strategizing advanced therapy options with our durable ventricular assist device (dVAD) population.**
- **Conduct monthly reviews of organ offers turned down but accepted elsewhere, a better understanding of organ selection and potential patient outcomes.**
- **Strategizing the evaluation process to ensure excellent candidate selection for better transplant outcomes.**

We welcome any questions you may have about the data in this report or our program in general.