

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

August 23, 2023

Conference Call

Sandra Amaral, MD, MHS, Chair
Vijay Gorantla, MD, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 08/23/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Item: Require Reporting of Patient Safety Events
2. Public Comment Item: Concepts for a Collaborative Approach to Living Donor Data Collection
3. Preview of Programming VCA in UNet™

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Public Comment Item: Require Reporting of Patient Safety Events

The Vice Chair of the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) presented their project that is currently out for Summer 2023 Public Comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee will provide their official discussion and feedback via a public comment on the OPTN website.

A member queried whether the MPSC had considered combining both the newly rolled out IT required reporting with the patient safety reporting. This member also suggested that when tracking delivery of the wrong organ or the correct organ to the wrong location, might not organ procurement organizations (OPOs) be better suited to record and relay this information, as they would manage the re-transportation. The discussion then shifted to a query posed by one member, who inquired about the rationale for including incidents that did not directly pertain to safety concerns. The MPSC Vice Chair explained that the inclusion of such incidents was motivated by the overarching objective of maintaining the integrity of the transplant system as a whole. The concern was raised that incidents with the potential for media coverage or actions that could reflect negatively on the transplant system should be addressed proactively to prevent reputational damage.

Looking ahead, the members outlined several action items, including reviewing and refining the reporting guidelines, considering the involvement of HHS or CMS in addressing integrity-threatening incidents, and continuing to gather feedback from stakeholders to ensure the reporting requirements remain clear and effective.

Next steps:

The Committee will provide their review and feedback via a public comment on the OPTN website.

2. Public Comment Item: Concepts for a Collaborative Approach to Living Donor Data Collection

The Vice Chair of the Living Donor Committee (LDC) presented their concept paper that is currently out for Summer 2023 Public Comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee will provide their official discussion and feedback via a public comment on the OPTN website.

The Committee Chair brought up concerns about implementing a long-term follow-up program for living donor candidates. They highlighted the difficulty that involves reaching out to candidates who were denied or did not donate as they are less receptive to being contacted again. Additionally, they commented that collecting medical data over time on living donors is particularly important, but it might be challenging to do without increasing burden. The idea of providing incentives for information collection was raised.

The LDC Vice Chair pointed out that the SRTR would manage long-term data collection and mentioned they already have a robust program developed to implement such a project. They also stressed the importance of starting the process and gathering as much feedback now to minimize program burden later.

A different member shared challenges in LD follow-up in the deep South due to socioeconomic factors and suggested electronic engagement methods, particularly for certain age groups. They proposed redefining "evaluation" as "an individual who showed up in your transplant center". This member echoed the potential benefits a SRTR commitment to 6, 12, and 24-month follow-ups would have on burden reduction.

Lastly, it was suggested that the OPTN Pediatric Committee be involved due to potential disproportionate burdens on pediatric programs, as many pediatric programs rely heavily on living donors.

Next steps:

The Committee will provide their review and feedback via a public comment on the OPTN website.

3. Preview of Programming VCA in UNet™

The Committee received a brief overview and explanation of the VCA implementation into UNet™ and what steps they could take to be best prepared. This included training modules online and staying informed via regular email communications from the UNOS team working on implementation and programming.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue discussing Programming VCA in UNet™ during their meeting in September.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 22, 2023 (in-person)
- October 25, 2023
- November 22, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alexa Blood
 - Amanda Gruendell
 - Anji Wall
 - Brian Berthiaume
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Christina Kaufman
 - Elliot Richards
 - Scott Winder
 - Greg McKenna
 - Joseph Hendrix
 - Paige Porrett
 - Rick Redett
 - Sandi Amaral
 - Todd Levy
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Kala Rochelle
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Avery Cook
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Jesse Howell
 - Kelley Poff
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Sally Aungier
- **Other Attendees**
 - Scott Lindberg (MPSC Vice Chair)
 - Stevan Gonzalez (LDC Vice Chair)