

**OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee
Requirements for Communicating Transplant Disease Transmission Workgroup
Meeting Summary
April 2, 2024
Conference Call**

**Lara Danziger-Isakov, MD, Chair
Stephanie Pouch, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Requirements for Communicating Transplant Disease Transmission Workgroup met via Webex teleconference on 04/02/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Overview & Discussion: Background & Workgroup goal

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

1. Overview & Discussion: Background & Workgroup goal

The Workgroup heard an overview of the project purpose and goal that was discussed during their meeting on [March 5, 2024](#). On March 18, 2024, the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee approved this project. The Workgroup was asked to discuss the following:

- Should unexpected disease transmission be defined in policy?
- In the event of identification of a donor infection/disease identification at the transplant center, what organisms need to be reported to the OPTN Improving Patient Safety Reporting Portal?
- What lung requirements should be reported?

Summary of discussion:

The Workgroup members agreed that defining expected and unexpected disease transmissions in OPTN Policy would provide necessary clarification on which potential donor-derived disease transmission events require reporting. The current understanding of an expected disease transmission is that donor disease is known pre-transplant and is anticipated to be transmitted to the recipient; expected transmissions do not need to be reported to the OPTN Patient Safety reporting portal. The current understanding of an unexpected disease transmission is that donor disease is discovered post-transplant and is anticipated to be transmitted to the recipient; unexpected transmissions need to be reported to the OPTN Patient Safety reporting portal. Members discussed re-considering the event that delineates expected from unexpected. There was a suggestion to change the qualifier from pre- and post-transplant to pre- and post-procurement.

The Workgroup discussed a variety of nuanced examples of disease reporting, which further exemplified the confusion among the transplant community surrounding this topic. The Chair clarified that current policy requires transplant hospitals to report all unexpected events that happen in transplant recipients to the OPTN patient safety portal, including pathogens that are not on the list of pathogens of special interest, and that the Workgroup is aiming to prevent transplant hospitals from reporting every single positive culture that is collected on a donor. The Chair clarified further that currently any positive donor culture collected by the transplant center would need to be reported to the Organ Procurement

Organization (OPO), thus, the question is what needs to be reported in the OPTN patient safety portal. Members agreed it may be helpful to provide a workflow chart to the transplant community to assist programs with reporting

The Workgroup discussed defining what constitutes a donor test from a donated lung. A member from a lung transplant program stated that if every positive donor lung culture required reporting, it would be incredibly burdensome to the system. The Chair highlighted that this is current practice at some programs, hence, the need for policy clarification. The difficulty in determining which positive donor lung cultures need to be reported to the patient safety portal was emphasized.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will continue to discuss these topics at their upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 26, 2024, teleconference, 3:30 PM ET
- May 7, 2024, teleconference, 3 PM ET

Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
 - Lara Danziger-Isakov
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Rachel Miller
 - Michael Ison
 - Emily Blumberg
 - Stephen Gray
 - Brian Keller
 - Anja DiCesaro
 - Lee Nolen
 - Dong Lee
 - Kaitlyn Fitzgerald
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Leah Nunez
 - Sandy Bartal
 - Logan Saxer
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Sara Langham
 - Cole Fox
 - Houlder Hudgins