

OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

March 14, 2024

Conference Call

Marie Budev, DO, MPH, Chair

Matthew Hartwig, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 03/14/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027*, OPTN Executive Committee
2. *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy*, OPTN Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee
3. Open Forum

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

1. *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027*, OPTN Executive Committee

The Committee received a presentation about the proposed OPTN Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 submitted for Winter 2024 public comment.

Summary of discussion:

Some members were concerned that the proposed plan does not consider the challenges and needs of the lung transplantation community. Non-use rates for lung are relatively low compared to other organs, however, low utilization rates for lung represent an area for improvement. Members identified the misalignment of incentives between donor hospitals and OPTN members during allocation and recovery as a barrier to achieving the proposed goals. The availability of donor data is critical to decision-making for lung offer acceptance, and ultimately, the ability to manage donor lungs until recovery. The Committee encouraged the development of a relationship between the OPTN and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to begin addressing these issues. The presenter stated that OPTN Board of Directors leadership has met with CMS representatives twice and hopes to involve CMS in Expedient Task force work.

Though the Committee understands that lung-specific projects may still be proposed, members expressed concerns that they might not be approved due to misalignment with strategic plan goals. Members discussed that better stratification on the waitlist and evaluation of post-transplant outcomes are highly desired. One member shared anecdotal concerns that some lung transplant surgeons may feel pressured to accept high risk organs to meet the proposed metrics. The member explained that this disadvantages smaller programs and candidates in rural areas as they do not have the resources to manage high risk lungs in a way that promotes positive post-transplant outcomes. The presenter replied that these anecdotal concerns from the community reflect a deficiency in the messaging surrounding

the proposed strategic plan goals and encouraged the Committee to express all concerns discussed in their public comment feedback.

Next steps

The Committee will submit their feedback on the *OPTN Strategic Plan 2024-2027* proposal to the OPTN website.

2. *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy, OPTN Multi-Organ Transplantation (MOT) Committee*

The Committee received a presentation about the MOT Committee's proposal, *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy*, submitted for Winter 2024 public comment.

Summary of discussion

The Committee supported the proposed changes to clarify OPTN policy and recommended that organ offer acceptance be finalized as soon as a transplant program commits to donor recovery. A member commented that arrangements for donor recovery may take an additional 5-6 hours after offer acceptance. During this time, the potential recipient is notified, and members felt strongly that candidates should not be vulnerable to having an offer retracted to fulfill multi-organ shares.

Next steps:

The Committee will submit their feedback on the *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy* proposal to the OPTN website.

3. Open Forum

There were no open forum speakers.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 21, 2024, Houston, TX, 8:30AM CST

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Marie Budev
 - Wayne Tsuang
 - Brian Keller
 - Erika D. Lease
 - David Erasmus
 - Soma Jyothula
 - Julia Klesney-Tait
 - Thomas Kaleekal
 - Stephen Huddleston
 - Lara Schaheen
 - Ed Cantu
 - Errol Bush
 - Sid Kapnadak
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - James Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Nick Wood
 - Katie Audette
 - David Schladt
 - Maryam Valapour
 - Paul Gunsalus
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Leah Nunez
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Samantha Weiss
 - Chelsea Weibel
 - Sarah Roache
- **Other Attendees**
 - Dennis Lyu (incoming Committee Vice Chair)
 - Gary Schwartz (incoming Committee member)
 - Jordan Hoffman (incoming Committee member)
 - Joseph Tusa (incoming Committee member)
 - Richard Formica (visiting presenter)