

**OPTN Minority Affairs Committee
Meeting Summary
February 26, 2024
Conference Call**

**Alejandro Diez, MD, Chair
Oscar Serrano, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met via Webex teleconference on 2/26/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Proposal: *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy*
2. Feedback to date: Refit KDPI without Race and Hepatitis C

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

Public Comment Proposal: Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy

The Committee heard a public comment presentation, *Modify Effect of Acceptance Policy* sponsored by the OPTN Ad Hoc Multi Organ Transplantation Committee. The purpose of the proposed policy is to clarify when a single organ offer acceptance takes priority over a required multi-organ transplant (MOT) share. This proposal will clarify that when a primary single organ is declined after an organ has been accepted, the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) is not required to allocate to required MOT shares since a second organ is no longer available. The MOT Committee is seeking feedback on the following:

- Should a specific timeframe be included in the policy language?
 - For example, if an organ has been accepted by a transplant program and the donor recovery has been scheduled.
- Do patients and donor families support the concept that accepted organs take priority over required multi-organ shares?

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision; no decisions were made by the Committee.

A member voiced support for the proposal but highlighted that it did not include any information on how many multi-organ patients would be impacted by this policy. She further commented, regarding the timeframe in which the organ acceptance binds the transplant program and OPO, it should be at the time that the transplant programs accept the organ offer. She further commented that it would be important to monitor waitlist deaths for multi-organ candidates to ensure that this proposal would not negatively impact multi-organ patients, who are usually sicker than patients who need a single organ.

Another member commented that the issue of acceptance by the transplant program should be further clarified. He explained that discussing donor offers among clinicians is different from discussing donor offers with family or the patient. When discussing offers with a multi-organ patient, the patient may be

more sensitive to receiving the information in the case that they are not receiving an organ because it's already been allocated. Therefore, clarifying what it means to be accepted by the transplant program is critical for patients.

A member asked how the system allocates organs. The presenter replied that organs are allocated based on a computer algorithm and that organs are specific to each match run. Once the offer has been made and the program accepts it on behalf of the recipient, the family is made aware and ideally, the OPO should not be able to renege on the offer. The member was in favor of a timeframe or conditions that should be included in policy in which the OPO cannot renege an offer once it has been accepted by the transplant program. Another member commented that multi-organ patients should not take priority over accepted organs.

Next Steps:

The Committee will submit feedback on the MOT Committee proposal to be posted to the OPTN.

Feedback to date: Refit KDPI without Race and Hepatitis C

The Committee heard an update of public comment feedback on Refit KDPI without Race and Hepatitis C (HCV). To date, some feedback includes:

- Support proposal: improve accuracy of post transplant survival for kidneys from African American/Black and HCV positive donors
- Questions about inclusion of genetic testing, APOL1
- KDPI 2.0 (out of scope)
- Some reservations about removal of HCV
- Improve KDPI as a measurement vs. increase utilization
- Impact on pediatric candidates

Additionally, the regional meeting presenters was asked to provide feedback on the following:

- Did you feel you were properly prepared for your presentation?
- How do you feel the presentation was understood/received by the community?
- Do you think the presentation could be clearer or use more detail?
- What tips do you have for upcoming regional presenters?
- Upcoming regional presenters- What questions do you have?

Summary of discussion:

This was not an agenda item that required a decision; no decisions were made by the Committee.
--

A member commented that a few HCV treatments have been approved for ages 3 years old and older. She shared that her program treated a patient who was transplanted with an HCV-positive kidney; the patient was ultimately fine. Therefore, since HCV treatment has been approved, some centers are starting to utilize HCV-positive organs. Recent studies have shown that HCV medication is safe and effective in patients 3 years of age and older.

The Chair commented that there was support from regional meetings to refit all their variables in KDPI, KDPI 2.0. He explained that there is significant interest from the community to develop a KDPI 2.0, however, it is outside the scope for this project.

A member shared that her presentation to her assigned regional meeting went well and that she felt well prepared. However, HCV continues to come up at regional meetings, which may require additional clarification that HCV testing requirements are not changing. Another member agreed and noted that it may be helpful for the community to have examples to show what variables are changing.

Next Steps:

The Committee will hear an overview of all feedback received at an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 4, 2024, at 12pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Alejandro Diez
 - Oscar Serrano
 - Christiana Gjelij
 - Donna Dennis
 - Steve Averhart
 - Catherine Vascik
 - Tony Urey
 - Jason Narverud
 - Sandra Edwards
 - April Stempien-Otero
 - Obi Ekwenna
 - Adrian Lawrence
 - John Bayton
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrianna Martinez
 - Shelley Grant
 - Mesmin Germain
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Monica Colvin
 - Bryn Thompson
 - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kelley Poff
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Jesse Howell
- **Other Attendees**
 - Hilda Fernandez
 - Christy Baune
 - Jim Sharrock