

**OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee  
Meeting Summary  
December 7, 2023  
Teleconference**

**PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair  
Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CPTC, CCRN, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee met via WebEx teleconference on 12/07/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Board of Directors Meeting Recap
2. ABO Subtype Reporting
3. OPO Performance Metrics Update

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

### **1. Board of Directors Meeting Recap**

The Committee received a recap of the OPTN Board of Directors Meeting, including the passing of the Modifying Organ Offer Acceptance Limits Proposal.

#### Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions regarding this item.

The Chair noted that there was concern about completing a monitoring report six months following the implementation of the modified organ offer acceptances. The Vice Chair commented that the OPTN Expeditious Taskforce had a meeting with OPTN committee chairs and vice chairs, in which they said by 2026, they would like to see 60,000 transplants and by 2030, they would like to see 100,000. The Vice Chair voiced concerns, saying that there are a lot of things in the system that need to be modified to produce those kinds of numbers. The Chair agreed, noting other attendees pointed out the need to fix the infrastructure to see those results in practice, including increasing the number of transplant professionals and donors as well as an increase in the production of immunosuppression medications. They added that the Task Force discussed potentially slowing down the operational work within OPTN Committee projects, especially continuous distribution.

A member asked if the OPTN Board of Directors will be separating from the UNOS Board of Directors. UNOS staff affirmed that there will be future communications as more information becomes available.

#### Next steps:

The Modifying Organ Offer Acceptance Limits will go into effect in 2024.

### **2. ABO Subtype Reporting**

The Committee received a presentation about ABO Subtype Reporting.

#### Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made regarding this item.

The Chair stated that they believe the current solution is effective, especially since there have been very few, if any, significant complications with ABO subtyping within the OPTN Computer System. A member commented that they did not realize how much work it entailed to make a change to match the policy language and believes that it is not a significant priority.

A member recommended including a feature in the OPTN Computer System that when verifying an ABO, a medical professional should also verify the subtyping so that it can no longer be edited. They noted that if OPO staff does not enter an ABO subtyping, the field remains editable, causing it to potentially be edited unintentionally, and therefore increasing the risk of patient safety issues.

Next steps:

UNOS Staff will pass this feedback along to the relevant parties.

### **3. OPO Performance Metrics Update**

The Committee received an update regarding OPO Performance Metrics from the OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee, which a relevant concept paper will be going out for public comment in Winter 2024.

Summary of discussion:

No decisions were made regarding this agenda item.

The Vice Chair pointed out to the Committee that a concept paper relevant to this topic would be going out for public comment for Winter 2024, and Committee members should provide feedback on this proposal. They commented that each OPO may collect data differently and some work may have to be done to make this data collection more manageable for OPOs. They continued, highlighting that the overall goal is to start looking at process issues, how OPOs handle authorization challenges, and how they respond to referrals, amongst other challenges.

A member voiced their agreement with previous sentiments, echoing that it may look overwhelming at first glance, but once it gets operationalized, it's logical and will help move initiatives forward. They encouraged the Committee to purposefully review all the public comment items.

A member questioned what information would be collected from transplant centers. The Vice Chair replied, noting that information is particularly important to be clear about since they want to avoid any confusion around what data they must submit. The Chair recommended that Committee members should be vocal about this proposal since it will have a big impact on them and sharing the OPO perspective is incredibly important in all public comment proposals.

Next steps:

Once the OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee releases this concept paper for public comment in Winter 2024, the Committee will provide feedback.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- January 18, 2024 @ 1:00 pm EST (teleconference)

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - PJ Geraghty
  - Lori Markham
  - Kurt Shutterly
  - Clinton Hostetler
  - Donna Smith
  - Doug Butler
  - Erin Halpin
  - Greg Veenendaal
  - Kevin Koomalsingh
  - Lee Nolen
  - Leslie McCloy
  - Micah Davis
  - Samantha Endicott
  - Sharyn Sawczak
  - Stephen Gray
  - Theresa Daly
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Mesmin Germain
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Jon Miller
  - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Robert Hunter
  - Alina Martinez
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Katrina Gauntt
  - Kayla Balfour
  - Kayla Temple
  - Kevin Daub
  - Ross Walton
  - Sharon Shepherd
  - Susan Tlusty