

## **OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**June 15, 2023**

**Conference Call**

**Marie Budev, DO, Chair**

**Matthew Hartwig, MD, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Lung Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 6/15/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and agenda
2. DCD Lung Transplant Collaborative
3. Lung Continuous Distribution: Two Month Monitoring
4. Lung Committee Project Work
5. Recognition of outgoing and incoming members
6. Next steps and closing comments

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

#### **1. Welcome and agenda**

The Chair welcomed Committee members and presenters.

##### Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

#### **2. DCD Lung Transplant Collaborative**

Staff explained the purpose of the donor after circulatory death (DCD) Lung Transplant Collaborative is to increase the number of DCD lung transplants. Transplanted lungs from DCD donors have been found to have favorable outcomes in recipients. Increasing the acceptance and utilization of these organs may positively impact the number of lung transplants. This topic complements the DCD Procurement Collaborative's work with OPOs and is of interest to members of the transplant community.

Participation in the collaborative has involved 29 adult lung programs (about 45% of lung transplant programs). The collaborative aims to increase the number of DCD lung transplants by 30% over the previous 8-month period. Collaborative activities have included fireside chats with subject matter experts, collaborative calls, and performance improvement coaching. On September 26, 2023 through September 27, 2023, the OPTN will host a DCD Lung Transplant Learning Congress to highlight improvement projects and incorporate attendees from all lung transplant programs. Organ procurement organizations (OPOs) will be included as well.

##### Summary of discussion:

The Chair noted it is beneficial to invite OPOs and asked if industry (i.e. lung bioengineering or TransMedics) will be included as well. Staff responded they are not currently included because it is limited to OPTN members at this time.

### **3. Lung Continuous Distribution: Two-Month Monitoring**

Staff presented a monitoring report that focused on two months pre- and post-implementation of [Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs](#). The monitoring report included small sample sizes which limited stratification. Data are subject to change and general trends presented may change as more data are collected.

#### Data Summary:

The monitoring report focused on pre- (January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023) and post- (March 9, 2023 to May 8, 2023) policy eras. Candidates waiting on the OPTN Waiting List stayed relatively consistent with 1464 in the pre-policy era and 1487 in the post-policy era. Candidate additions to the OPTN Waiting List by diagnosis group pre- and post-policy era remained the same for diagnosis groups A, C, and D and jumped 11 candidates for diagnosis group B. The number of OPTN Waiting List removals for death or too sick fell to five, compared to a range of 12 to 29 under the lung allocation score (LAS) system.

The number of candidates with one exception request form submitted per month was 35 from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, compared to a maximum of 29 in 2022 under the LAS. The majority of exception requests were submitted under medical urgency.

The number of transplants from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (under the lung composite allocation score, or CAS, system) was 274 transplants, compared to a maximum of 264 transplants per month between 1/9/2022 – 3/8/2023 (under the LAS system). The median distance traveled is 355.5 nautical miles (NM) in the post-policy era as opposed to 180 NM in the pre-policy era. The median distance by medical urgency in the post-policy era was 311 NM for the bottom 90% of medically urgent candidates and 541 for the top 10% most medically urgent candidates. For DCD donors, the median distance from donor hospital to transplant programs increased to 255.5 NM from 199 NM in the post-policy era. For non-DCD donors, this distance increased to 365.5 NM from 176 NM in the post-policy era.

Utilization from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was 38.55%, compared to a maximum rate of 38.93% between 1/9/2022 – 3/8/2023 under the LAS. Non-use rates were 8.15% from April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, compared to a minimum rate of 7.05% between 1/9/2022 – 3/8/2023 under the LAS. Non-use rates by donor type stayed about the same in the pre-and post-policy eras.

#### Summary of discussion:

A member asked for specific data for pediatric donors and recipients. Staff responded this will be included in the three-month monitoring report when a larger sample size is available for stratification. A member asked for data on the number of offers that are received by month. Staff responded this analysis will be included in the first meeting for the Promote Efficiency of Lung Allocation Workgroup. A member asked for data on organs that are put on ex vivo lung perfusion (EVLP). Staff responded this will also be included in the three-month monitoring report.

### **4. Lung Committee Project Work**

The Committee received an update on their project work to date for the Six-Minute Walk Workgroup and the Promote Efficiency of Lung Allocation Workgroup.

#### Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

### **5. Recognition of outgoing and incoming members**

The Committee thanked outgoing members for their hard work and participation. The Committee welcomed new members that will begin their terms on July 1, 2023.

Summary of discussion:

**6. Next steps and closing comments**

The Chair thanked members for joining.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- July 13, 2023, teleconference, 5 pm ET

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Marie Budev
  - Erika Lease
  - Cynthia Gries
  - Dennis Lyu
  - Ed Cantu
  - Jackie Russe
  - Julia Klesney-Tait
  - Kelly Willenberg
  - Nirmal Sharma
  - Pablo Sanchez
  - Stephen Huddleston
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
  - David Schladt
  - Maryam Valapour
  - Nicholas Wood
  - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Kaitlin Swanner
  - Taylor Livelli
  - Beth Overacre
  - Chelsea Weibel
  - Holly Sobczack
  - Kate Breitbeil
  - Krissy Laurie
  - Tatenda Mupfudze
  - Samantha Weiss
  - Sara Rose Wells
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
  - Aleem Siddique
  - Brian Keller
  - David Erasmus
  - Paul Gunsalus
  - Samantha DeLair
  - Samantha Taylor
  - Siddhartha Kapnadak
  - Thomas Kaleekal
  - Wayne Tsuang
  - Ernestina Melicoff