

OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

April 25, 2023

Conference Call

Richard Daly, MD, Chair

JD Menteer, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee, the Committee, met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 04/25/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Follow-up: ABOi Offers Proposal
2. Discussion: Developing and Finalizing Attribute Rating Scales
3. Closing Comments

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

1. Follow-up: ABOi Offers Proposal

Staff reminded the Committee of public comment themes reviewed at their in-person meeting and the subsequent report of full public comments available to the Committee. Staff asked if the Committee had any further comments.

Summary of Discussion:

A member commented in reviewing the comments and hearing from colleagues, there seems to be some misinformation in the community regarding the proposal and policy development process. The member further commented the Committee's responsibility is to represent the Heart transplant community collectively, and members should be encouraging community engagement in the policy development process and educating on the Committee's projects.

2. Discussion: Developing and Finalizing Attribute Rating Scales

The Chair provided an overview of the process the Committee will be following to develop attributes and rating scales as part of their continuous distribution project. The Committee was provided with some examples of different types of rating scales. The Committee was also encouraged to identify data that may be needed to inform their attribute and rating scale discussions.

Summary of Presentation:

For each attribute, the Committee will determine an appropriate rating scale. Once rating scales are determined, the Committee will then develop weights for each attribute to build an overall composite allocation score structure. The Committee may divide into smaller groups to develop recommendations on attributes, rating scales, and weights individually to bring back to the larger Committee.

Some possible rating scale options include linear, nonlinear, or binary (yes/no) scales. For demonstrative purposes, the Committee reviewed some examples of rating scales previously considered by other committees (ex. the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee used a non-linear, exponential scale for the calculated panel reactive antibodies (CPRA) attribute).

As another example, a possible approach for determining a rating scale for blood type could be to analyze each blood type by the proportion compatible and incompatible and build a scale that provides more points for blood types that have the least compatibility, either via a linear or exponential scale.

For each attribute, the Committee will explore how the attribute functions in current policy (if applicable), why it is important to include, and what information would be useful for the Committee's consideration of that attribute.

Summary of discussion:

A member commented for the blood type examples shown, consideration should be given to average waiting time in addition to compatibility for each blood type. Members agreed additional data would be helpful in determining the appropriate rating scale for blood type.

A member asked if this would be an opportunity to use machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and partnership with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to help determine some of these rating scales. The Chair commented it may be appropriate to use that technology for some attributes, in addition to reviewing available data and literature. Staff further commented the Committee will be able to explore different rating scale shapes with MIT once the Committee has more consensus on outcomes goals for each attribute. Another member commented it will be important for the Committee to conduct their own unique analysis for each attribute.

A member recommended for the Committee to also consider possible inequities as they consider each attribute. Another member agreed.

Next Steps

To work through this phase of the project, the Committee will begin meeting twice a month. Some attributes may require multiple discussions to develop a rating scale recommendation.

3. Closing Comments

The Chair encouraged Committee members to start considering what data points would be helpful for attribute discussions.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- May 16, 2023, virtual
- June 20, 2023, virtual

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Richard Daly
 - JD Menteer
 - Shelley Hall
 - Tamas Alexy
 - Jennifer Carapelluci
 - Hannah Copeland
 - Jen Cowger
 - Timothy Gong
 - Glen Kelley
 - Earl Lovell
 - John Nigro
 - Adam Schneider
 - Cristy Smith
 - Martha Tankersley
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Grace Lyden
 - Monica Colvin
 - Yoon Son Ahn
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Eric Messick
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Alex Carmack
 - James Alcorn
 - Alina Martinez
 - Holly Sobczak
 - Kelsi Lindblad
 - Kimberly Uccellini
 - Mariah Huber
- **Other Attendees**
 - Eman Hamad
 - Kim Baltierra
 - Samantha Taylor
 - Daniel Yip
 - Robert Goodman