

**INTERIM REPORT OF THE  
OPTN/UNOS AD HOC DISEASE TRANSMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**September 9, 2009  
Chicago, Illinois**

The OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee met in Chicago, Illinois on September 9, 2009, and considered the following items:

1. Dr. Michael Ison, Chair, welcomed the Committee's three new members, and asked all members to briefly introduce themselves. Members then received a brief orientation, including the Committee's charge, background on the case review process and an introduction of the Committee's goals for 2009-2010. Members were reminded that additional details will be provided in two general orientations sessions hosted by Dr. Mary D. Ellison, Assistant Executive Director for Federal Affairs.

The Chair encouraged members to share ideas for presenting or sharing information with professional societies and other groups with either him or committee staff. This provides an excellent opportunity for sharing findings and ultimately helping improve upon patient safety practices.

2. The Committee reviewed public comment feedback received thus far on its proposal to modify HTLV-1/2 screening requirements for deceased donors (Policy 2.2.3.1) in preparation for consideration of the proposal by the Executive Committee on October 23, 2009. A follow-up call will be scheduled to review all responses after the public comment period closes on September 30, 2009.
3. The Committee discussed the potential effects of the pandemic novel (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus on the transplant community, and reviewed a guidance document it developed to help members prepare for the influenza season. A subcommittee was named to address future H1N1 issues, including periodic updates to the guidance document. Members discussed their desire to collect information regarding potential transmission of the H1N1 influenza virus from donors with known infection. Staff will work with Executive leadership to determine if this project can be pursued.
4. The Committee completed its semi-annual review of potential disease transmission events reported to the patient safety system. Seventy-one cases were reviewed and classified based upon the probability of donor-derived transmission.
  - a. Members discussed plans to review trends in patterns in cases reported to the Patient Safety System since 2006. Specific categories of study included bacterial transmissions, tuberculosis, and fungal transmissions.
  - b. Patient Safety Staff discussed planned improvements to case workflow, review of case follow-up reports, and draft closing letters for cases involving indeterminate or confirmed non-transmissions.
5. The Committee reviewed data requested by its Malignancy Subcommittee and received an update on efforts by this group to develop tumor transmission risk categories. The group adopted an evidence-based approach to:
  - a. Define an overall risk framework to categorize relative tumor-independent transmission risk;

- b. Populate risk categories with individual tumors according to the best data available; and
  - c. Address special emphasis topics based upon DTAC cases or recent literature topics.
6. The Committee received a brief update on continuing efforts to rewrite policies 2.0 and 4.0. The goal of this effort is to move language related to OPO donor evaluation and up to the point of recovery to section 2.0 and language related to reporting and potential disease transmission in policy 4.0. Due to unforeseen time constraints related to the Committee's efforts with HTLV and H1N1, this project has been delayed. Members agreed that additional input from both the OPO and the Operations and Safety Committees will be beneficial, as much of 2.0 covers OPO process. Members anticipate this proposal going out for public comment in early 2010. Staff will work internally with policy staff involved with the total policy rewrite project to avoid duplication of effort in rewriting these sections.
  7. Members discussed sending out a follow-up to its October 2008 serology survey in spring 2010, to re-evaluate how members are addressing the current and upcoming changes to test platform availability. Members agreed that questions regarding nucleic acid testing (NAT) should also be included this time. The OPO Committee surveyed members on this last year, so NAT-related questions were not included on this Committee's survey. Plans to revamp the survey format in order to be more user friendly were discussed. Drop down selections will be included to lessen the burden for OPO members completing the form and also to make data extraction and review easier for staff. The survey did not have a 100% response rate, so members agreed that it would be important to partner with AOPO Members. A recommendation was made to hold this effort until the AJT paper regarding NAT testing is released, expected later in 2010. Members agreed that it would be wise to wait and see if this paper changes testing practices before surveying the community.
  8. Members received a brief update on the OMB process and the Committee's progress made on suggested additions and revisions to date. The Committee was asked to focus its expertise on serology and malignancy data. After considering additional feedback and comments from other organ specific and constituent committees, members finalized their recommendations.
  9. The Newsletter Subcommittee Chair provided members with a brief update of the status of this project. Several articles have been turned in, and are now being reviewed and/or revised. The group hopes to publish its first electronic newsletter in late fall, sending it to all OPTN members. The first newsletter will focus on introducing the document to members and some brief general articles on TB and bacterial transmissions.
  10. The Committee reviewed the seven proposals released for public comment on July 10, 2009, and provided feedback to the Living Donor Committee regarding its guidance document for the medical evaluation of living liver donors.

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