

**OPTN Policy Oversight Committee
Post-Implementation Monitoring Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
July 25, 2023
Conference Call**

Jesse Schold, PhD, Med, MStat, Chair

Introduction

The Post-Implementation Monitoring Subcommittee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/25/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Eliminate Use of DSA and Region from Pancreas Allocation: 2-year post-implementation monitoring report & recap of Pancreas feedback

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

1. Eliminate Use of DSA and Region from Pancreas Allocation: 2-year post-implementation monitoring report & recap of Pancreas feedback

The Subcommittee received a presentation from the UNOS Research Staff on the 2-year post-implementation monitoring report of eliminating use of DSA and Regions from Pancreas Allocation.

Summary of discussion:

The meeting covered various aspects of the Pancreas policy change, including its intended goals, unintended consequences, organ utilization, racial disparities, and the increase in non-use rates. It was emphasized that while the policy aimed to broaden access, there were concerns about its effectiveness, particularly in light of changes in OPO metrics and allocation practices. Further analysis and discussions were deemed necessary to address these challenges.

Members discussed the intended goals of the policy change and the Vice-Chair of the Pancreas Transplantation Committee clarified that there were no unintended consequences identified with this policy change. However, they expressed concerns about the decreasing utilization of pancreata for transplantation and the need to compare pre- and post-policy data in the context of changes in Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) metrics and the impact of COVID-19.

The Subcommittee Chair questioned whether specific target populations were considered when implementing the policy change. Pancreas Vice-Chair noted that there wasn't a significant change in the donor and recipient populations, and organ movement remained relatively stable.

A member inquired about the increase in the non-use rate and its correlation with pancreata recovered for research purposes. The Chair mentioned that there had indeed been an increase in pancreata used for research, but the definition of non-use specifically involved the removal of organs from the body. It was unclear how many of these were ultimately used for research or excluded from transplantation.

The discussion turned to the disparity in pancreas transplant numbers across racial groups. The Chair raised the question of whether the "per 100 years" metric provides meaningful insights when considering the small absolute numbers of pancreas transplants. They suggested that it might be

instructive to examine cumulative instances of listing and transplant rates from the time of listing to gain a better understanding of the data.

Pancreas Vice-Chair inquired about the physical numbers related to transplant rates for non-white recipients, seeking to understand if there were notable changes in this regard.

The Chair expressed concern whether the goal to broaden access by extending the geographic reach of organs was achieved. However, some of the concerning data may be a result not of the policy change but due at least in part to other changes to the transplant system. Regardless, there is a concerning increase in non-use rates to consider. An increase in allocation out of sequence emphasizes the need to remain vigilant about this issue in future policy discussions. In an observation about local practices, the Pancreas Vice-Chair mentioned that some OPOs were removing organs and attempting to place them even considering the change in OPO metrics expectations, which might contribute to the increase in non-use rates.

Next steps:

Staff will summarize the feedback in a memo for Policy Oversight Committee review prior to sending the feedback to the Pancreas Committee.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 26, 2023 (conference call)

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members**
 - Gerald Morris
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Jesse Schold
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Rachel Engen
 - Shimul Shah
 - Ty Dunn
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Shelley Grant
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Joann White
 - Laura Cartwright
 - Lauren Parker
 - Sarah Booker
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Tamika Watkins