

OPTN Policy Oversight Committee

Meeting Summary

June 12, 2023

Conference Call

Nicole Turgeon, MD, FACS, Chair

Jennifer Prinz, RN, BSN, MPH, CPTC, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 06/12/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project: Evaluate Use of Race in KDRI Score
2. New Project: Promote Efficiency of Lung Allocation
3. Other Significant Items

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

1. New Project: Evaluate Use of Race in KDRI Score

Decision: Members agreed that this project aligned well with the strategic plan to improve equity and access to transplants. They voted 11 for, and 1 against on moving the project forward.

The Vice-Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee presented on the project to remove race and HCV from KDPI by refitting the calculation without those coefficients.

Summary of discussion:

The MAC Vice-Chair emphasized that simply removing coefficients without re-evaluating the entire KDPI formula would result in statistical inaccuracies and bias. Therefore, the proposal was to create a new score based on updated information and calculations. Another member concurred, adding that eliminating the coefficients would not be appropriate as it could break the calculation as a whole.

There was additional discussion about the technical implementation hours, and it was revealed that the project would require more hours than initially estimated due to the need to refactor the entire calculation and update various systems and interfaces. The new estimate for technical implementation was around 1900 hours.

A member highlighted that conversations regarding refitting the KDPI calculation have also been had in the Kidney Transplantation Committee in conjunction with continuous distribution, as refitting the calculation is a large task. Additionally, this member emphasized that there might be area of adjustment for pediatric candidates, considering additional variables such as longevity matching. However, they agreed that this is a timely project that should be pursued for the potential benefit it could bring to candidates.

The Committee members expressed their support for the project and discussed the potential risks and benefits associated with revisiting the KDPI formula. The Committee discussed the possible impact on organ non-utilization and the necessity of ensuring proper consent for patients receiving kidneys based

on the new formula. They acknowledged the complexity of the project, the need for ongoing discussions, and the potential for further updates to other variables in the KDPI formula.

Next steps:

The Committee voted in support of the project and for the plans for continued refinement and progress by the Minority Affairs Committee.

2. New Project: Promote Efficiency in Lung Allocation

Decision: Members voted 13 for, 0 against on moving the project forward.

Data summary (as applicable):

A representative for the Lung Transplantation Committee presented on the proposal. The presentation highlighted the monitoring the data from the first month following implementation of Lung Continuous Distribution and reported positive outcomes in terms of the number of transplants performed, removal from the waiting list, and utilization rates.

However, early monitoring indicated some upward trends in the median number of transplant programs receiving offers before accepting lungs, as well as an increase in the median number of offer notifications.

The Lung Committee proposes convening a workgroup comprised of members from the Lung Committee and the Organ Procurement Organization Committee to explore solutions that would benefit both transplant programs and OPOs.

Summary of discussion:

Members agreed that this project was timely and important in conjunction with other organs beginning their work on continuous distribution. The Chair felt that this project would not be unique to lung and that other organ types could run into similar problems during continuous distribution implementation and recommended that members of the Kidney Committee could join the workgroup/discussion as they progress in the development of Kidney-Pancreas Continuous Distribution.

It was emphasized that since there is no resource estimate on this project yet, as it is still in the early stages of development, the Lung Committee will be bringing the proposal back for additional review. Members concurred that this was an appropriate move, as it would allow for a more rigorous review of the proposal once resource use can be evaluated in addition to the proposal itself.

Next steps:

The Lung Committee will set up a workgroup and include members of the Kidney Committee and the OPO Committee. They will return to POC with resource estimates at a later date.

3. Other Significant Items

A member of the Committee and Treasurer of the OPTN shed light upon the current budgeting concerns of the OPTN, as HRSA has not yet approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2023 or FY 2024. They emphasized that this puts potential projects at risk of completion and shows a lack of understanding of what not only the POC, but other OPTN Committees do. The member made a request of the Committee members to email the HRSA representative and express their support of the proposed budget for FY 2024.

Upcoming Meeting

- July 13, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Andrew Flesher
 - Brad Kornfeld
 - Christine Brenner
 - Dolamu Olaitan
 - Gerald Morris
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Jesse Schold
 - Jim Kim
 - Jondavid Menteeer
 - Matt Hartwig
 - Nicole Turgeon
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Paulo Martins
 - Stephanie Pouch
 - Rachel Engen
 - Scott Biggins
 - Scott Lindberg
 - Stevan Gonzalez
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Shelley Grant
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Ajay Israni
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Courtney Jett
 - Darby Harris
 - Emma Young
 - Isaac Hager
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kayla Temple
 - Kelley Poff
 - Kieran McMahon
 - Kim Uccellini
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Laura Cartwright
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Lindsey Larkin
 - Liz Robbins
 - Matt Caffarella
 - Meghan McDermott
 - Morgan Jupe

- Roger Brown
- Sally Aungier
- Sara Rose Wells
- Tamika Watkins
- Taylor Livelli
- Tina Rhodes