

**OPTN/UNOS Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)  
Meeting Summary  
September 8, 2016  
Conference Call**

**Jeffrey Orlowski, Chair  
Matthew Cooper, M.D., Vice Chair**

*Discussions of the full committee on September 8, 2016, are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.*

**Committee Projects**

None

**Committee Projects Pending Implementation**

None

**Implemented Committee Projects**

None

**Review of Public Comment Proposals**

**1. Infectious Disease Verification to Enhance Patient Safety**

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) heard a presentation on this proposal from the Chair of the Operations and Safety Committee (OSC) and offered the following comments:

- Consistent processes will decrease the likelihood of something being missed. The proposal states that if a transplant program receives and verifies all of the donor's infectious disease results ahead of time (during a verification prior to organ receipt), then the program does not have to re-verify the results before the transplant occurs (upon organ receipt). An MPSC member asked why the OSC wrote that exception into policy instead of requiring programs to consistently verify results prior to transplant (upon organ receipt).
- This is clearly an important issue, and we want to have the safest system possible. However, many hospitals are struggling to complete the new ABO verifications as currently prescribed, and adding more levels of complexity could increase problems instead of lessen them. If the process is too confusing, things may fall through the cracks, which would defeat the purpose of the verifications.
- An MPSC member expressed concern that efforts avoiding overly prescriptive behavior in policy have led to many interpretations and variations on the ABO verification process throughout the community, and all of these variations on the process have to be audited for compliance. The member asked if the OSC had discussed creating a single checklist so all of the required verification components could be documented in one location.

## **2. Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System**

The MPSC reviewed excerpts of this proposal pertaining to status exception appeals and situations in which the Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee might refer a member to the MPSC for review. The MPSC has no issues with receiving referrals of this type, but members expressed concern that they may receive more referrals than anticipated.

## **3. Modifications to Informed Consent Requirements for Potential Living Donors**

UNOS staff informed the MPSC that the Living Donor Committee submitted a proposal for public comment that modifies the existing living donor informed consent policy. The MPSC Chair asked committee members to make sure they were aware of the proposed changes at their own hospitals and to also draw this proposal to the attention of colleagues. If members do not pay attention to the proposed changes and they are approved, the MPSC may be subjected to a number of easily avoided referrals for noncompliance with the new requirements.

### **Other Significant Items**

#### **4. Request to consider whether MPSC wants to sponsor the American Society of Transplantation (AST) requested revision to Bylaws' Transplant Pharmacy Requirements**

During its July 2015 meeting, the MPSC reviewed a memo dated April 25, 2016, from the AST to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors requesting revisions to the Bylaws requirements regarding transplant pharmacists. The MPSC voted to refer the issue to the OPTN/UNOS Operations and Safety Committee. Specifically, the MPSC asked the Operations and Safety Committee to provide data on patient safety risks associated with insufficient transplant pharmacist involvement, and whether any such risk could be improved by changes to the Bylaws requirement. Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee learned that the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) issued a press release regarding its recent approval of a role delineation study in Solid Organ Transplantation. The purpose of the role delineation study is to determine whether this practice area is based upon specialized knowledge of the pharmaceutical sciences, as well as specialized functions routinely performed by practitioners in the proposed specialty. If the role delineation study in this area yields information suggesting that Solid Organ Transplantation should be recognized as a specialty practice in pharmacy, BPS will then issue a call to the profession for a petition for specialty recognition.

The MPSC was presented with this new information during its meeting on September 8 and voted to rescind its recommendation to refer the issues to the Operations and Safety Committee and wait until the results of the BPS study is available before reconsidering the AST request.

#### **5. Member Specific Issues**

The Committee also convened in closed session to hear a report on one ongoing member specific issue. No action was required.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- October 17-19, 2016
- November 7, 2016 Call
- February 28-March 2, 2017

- July 11-13, 2017
- October 17-19, 2017