

**OPTN OPO Committee
Meeting Summary
November 17, 2022
Conference Call**

**Kurt Shutterly, RN, CPTC, Chair
PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, vice-Chair**

Introduction

The Organ Procurement Organization Committee (“Committee”) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 11/17/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Limit Organ Offer Acceptances Workgroup Update
2. OPTN Network Operations Oversight Committee
3. Vice-chair Nomination Update

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

1. Limit Organ Offer Acceptances Workgroup Update

The Committee heard an update on the first meeting of the Limit Organ Offer Acceptances Workgroup. Staff shared a summary of the discussion.

Data summary:

The Limit Organ Offer Acceptances Workgroup is considering possible solutions to the problem of programs accepting multiple organs as primary for the same candidate. *OPTN Policy 5.6.C: Organ Offer Acceptance Limit* currently allows programs to maintain up to two primary acceptances per organ per candidate. This potentially contributes to an increase in organ discard when one organ is necessarily turned down after choosing the other.

Members representing the lung community from the workgroup noted that lung quality was often known prior to recovery, so late turndowns were not as significant an issue. This issue was primarily raised because of late turndowns resulting from multiple primary acceptances in the liver community. A proposed solution was to disallow multiple primary acceptances once one or both organs have an operating room timing.

This workgroup currently has a data request out to gather relevant information on multiple primary acceptances.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair of the workgroup noted that a key takeaway agreed on by the workgroup members was that there should not be multiple primary acceptances for low-MELD, or similar scoring across other groups, candidates. Multiple acceptances should be used only to increase the likelihood that a critically sick candidate receives an organ.

A member supported the approach to disallow multiple primary acceptances within a set timeframe prior to entering the operating room. Multiple members expressed surprise that this practice was not already done by some OPOs.

Another member endorsed finding a policy solution for this, adding that delaying the operating room timing for the refused organ increases the likelihood that the organ will not be used. Additionally, it increases the chances that a family will withdraw consent for donation.

The Chair of the Committee supported the approach taken by the workgroup, agreeing that there was likely no way to completely remove the ability to accept multiple organs because of edge-case scenarios.

It was suggested that the workgroup review the distance from the transplant program in cases where a program chooses between two primary organs. A member considered that the transplant program may choose the closer organ because it is easier to retrieve. The Chair of the workgroup replied that they did consider in their discussion and agreed that, anecdotally, programs who were physically travelling to recover the organ seemed less likely to refuse the organ as a late turndown. Research staff added that distance could be considered for a future data request.

Next steps:

Research staff will aim to present the data request at the Committee's in-person meeting in February.

2. OPTN Network Operations Oversight Committee

A member representing the Network Operations Oversight Committee (NOOC) presented on their project in development. This project seeks to improve the security framework of the OPTN by requiring members to comply with National Institute on Security and Technology (NIST) standards on access control and training, as well as incident management and response.

Data summary:

The proposal would require:

- An assessment of a program's current security
- An identification of areas in which a program does or does not align with the chosen NIST standard
- Programs to perform the necessary updates to become compliant
- An audit to be performed every three years on a program's security attestation

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if the proposal would address the ability for program administrators to modify the privileges of staff not affiliated with their organization. The presenter replied that it was not considered for this proposal; this proposal was limiting its scope to the structure and function of a program's security, rather than user access and controls.

The presenter also noted that the cost estimates for performing the initial assessment varied widely between OPOs – one program reported \$300,000 spent, while another reported \$5,000.

The Chair inquired whether the proposal would be subject to the same financial impact group review as the other proposals being released for January public comment. Staff replied that it would be. They added that they felt this proposal would require a significant resource investment for all organizations.

Next steps:

Staff will update the Committee on any updates stemming from the NOOC's proposal.

3. Vice-Chair Nomination Update

Staff provided an update for the Committee on the process for selecting a new vice-Chair.

Presentation summary:

- Increase transparency in the selection
 - Inform committee of nomination process
 - Vice-Chair vacancy is announced in the annual call for nominations
- Promote inclusiveness
 - Full committee participation in the nomination process
 - Full committee participates in the selection process
- Thorough review and vetting of vice-Chair candidates
 - Interested individuals submit an update volunteer interest form, personal statement, agree to responsibilities, and meet qualifications
 - Final candidates go through a formal interview process

Staff requested any considerations of the four identified candidates be emailed prior to final candidate selection.

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion surrounding this item

Next steps:

Staff and Committee leadership will review the identified candidates.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 14, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Kurt Shutterly
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Bruce Nicely
 - David Marshman
 - Debra Cooper
 - Donna Smith
 - Judy Storfjell
 - Kevin Koomalsingh
 - Malay Shah
 - Leslie McCloy
 - Meg Rogers
 - Nicholas Wood
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - Sue McClung
 - Valerie Chipman
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Adrianna Martinez
 - Mesmin Germain
 - Vanessa Arriola
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Kristine Althaus
 - Matt Belton
 - Ross Walton
 - Terri Helfrich
- **Other Attendees**
 - Bruno Mastroianni