

OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)

Meeting Summary

September 27, 2019

Conference Call

Lisa Stocks, RN, MSN, FNP, Chair

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Introduction

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee met by conference call and GoToTraining on September 27, 2019, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review and Endorsement of New MPSC Charge/Charter Project Name
2. MPSC Projects Update
3. Pediatric Bylaws Implementation Update
4. Policy Oversight Committee Update

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

1. Review and Endorsement of New MPSC Charge/Charter Project Name

All OPTN committees are reviewing committee charges for consistency with the new OPTN contract provisions as part of the new Governance and Operations Plan.

The MPSC took this opportunity to update the MPSC charge to better reflect the evolution of the Committee's mission and scope and to make sure that the charge reflects the role of the Committee as a performance improvement partner and a source of transplant community education. The Committee discussed this task on its August 12 conference call and Committee members were given time to provide additional feedback following the call. Based on that feedback, a proposed draft charge was provided to the Executive Committee for review. At the time of the meeting, the Executive Committee had not provided any feedback on the proposed MPSC charge.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members expressed support for the draft MPSC charge. HRSA raised concerns about whether the new charge made it clear that the Committee could take action on any member non-compliance as required by the Final Rule. The Committee discussed revisions to the charge to make it clear that the Committee could take action on any non-compliance while still emphasizing the focus on performance improvement.

The Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the new charge, as revised, by a vote of 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions:

The OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) is an operating committee of the OPTN. The MPSC maintains membership criteria and monitors OPTN member compliance with OPTN membership criteria, OPTN bylaws and policies, and the OPTN final rule. The MPSC takes action or makes recommendations for further action to the OPTN Board of Directors as needed.

The MPSC, through peer review:

- Reviews events identified as presenting a risk to patient safety, public health or the integrity of the OPTN.
- Evaluates and supports OPTN members by providing feedback on and recommendations to improve members' performance, compliance, and quality systems.
- Reviews applications for membership in the OPTN, approval of designated transplant programs, and changes in OPTN member key personnel.

The MPSC also:

- Identifies opportunities for transplant community education to improve patient safety and safeguard the integrity of the transplant system, often through dissemination of successful examples of membership engagement and sharing of best practices.
- Develops bylaws and policies related to membership criteria or the oversight responsibilities of the MPSC that align with the OPTN mission to maximize organ supply, provide efficient and safe care, and provide equitable access to transplantation.

Next steps:

The Board of Directors will review the revised proposed charge at the December 2019 meeting. The Committee will be given the opportunity to revisit the charge at the November in-person meeting if we receive any additional feedback from the Executive Committee.

2. MPSC Projects Update

Staff provided a summary of the Committee prioritization of project ideas at its July 2019 committee meeting and provided an update on the status of the projects. Staff provided more detailed information on the project plan for the Membership Requirements Revision project that will kick-off on a conference call with the subcommittee on September 30. The Committee will participate in bylaw work sessions at its November in-person meeting.

3. Pediatric Bylaws Implementation Update

Provided an update on Pediatric Bylaw Implementation for the MPSC: 9/3 emails sent to OPTN Representatives, Alternate OPTN Representatives, and Primary Program Administrators of all transplant programs that have had at least one pediatric patient on their waitlist in the last five years. 9/20: email sent to same group with a notification of clarified work instructions. Applications are due to the Membership team by 12/3/2019. Due to the unique nature of pediatric component applications, UNOS Membership will provide the MPSC training on how to review them. This will most likely occur in November at the in-person MPSC meeting.

4. Policy Oversight Committee Update

The staff from the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) provided a committee update. They reported that based on the new OPTN contract, the POC is now structured as an "OPTN operating committee." This means that the POC has specific roles and responsibilities under the OPTN contract including working on committee project prioritization.

The MPSC was asked to consider specific OPTN projects that it wanted to work on and to provide its perspectives on other projects and provide feedback around three primary themes identified by the POC.

- Continuous distribution
- More efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization
- Improved equity for multi-organ and single organ candidates

Staff were particularly interested in the MPSC's perspective on improving the efficiency of donor/recipient matching.

Before offering suggestions regarding the POC projects, MPSC members asked some clarifying questions. First, an MPSC member asked whether the continuous distribution topic included an assessment of geographical disparities, particularly whether some allocation proposals would work as well in densely populated regions. Staff explained that the work group that has been reviewing the contiguous distribution topic has been evaluating urbanicity. Next, a committee member asked for an update on that status of the MPSC's continued utilization of 1-year post-transplant survival observed to expected as a performance metric. Staff explained that this project is included in the MPSC's upcoming project plan.

Committee members then provided the following suggestions:

- The OPTN should improve efficiencies in donor/recipient matching by further expanding facilitated placement systems. However, rather than focusing on individual organ allocation processes, the OPTN should consider and evaluate lessons learned from the pancreas facilitated placement process and the Organ Center Kidney Utilization Project and expand expedited placement across the entire system.
- Though supportive of projects intended to improve equity for multi-organ and single organ candidate, the OPTN needs to address multi-organ allocation policies, because there are significant differences in multi-organ allocation practices among OPOs across the country.
- The OPTN should consider ways to create more flexibility for transplant programs in terms of a program's acceptance criteria. Specifically, hospitals should be able to indicate specific patients for whom it would accept an offer outside of its usual acceptance criteria. This may allow hospitals to refine their overall acceptance criteria and eliminate unnecessary offers in most instances, while still allowing hospitals to indicate when they may be more willing to evaluate and consider more aggressive offers based on a specific patient's needs.

The MPSC asked for information on next steps and how the different OPTN committees would collaborate on these projects. Staff explained that each OPTN committee Vice Chair serves on the POC and would play a role in coordinating the work between the committee and the POC. Additionally, UNOS support staff will be developed around each project or theme.

A committee member also asked POC staff for an update on any projects pertaining the living liver donation. Staff answered that the Living Donor Committee has been discussing projects involving living liver donation, including modifying informed consent requirements and evaluating liver paired donation programs.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 5-7, 2019, Chicago, IL
- December 17, 2019, Conference Call, 3-5pm ET
- January 21, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- February 25-27, 2020, Chicago, IL
- April 14, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- May 21, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- June 29, 2020, Conference Call, 2-4pm, ET
- July 21-23, 2020, Chicago, IL