

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

May 11, 2022

Conference Call

Bohdan Pomahac, MD, Chair
Sandra Amaral, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 5/11/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Modify Graft Failure Definition for VCA
2. Apply Transplant Program Inactivity Requirements to VCA
3. OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update

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

1. Modify Graft Failure Definition for VCA

During its April 6, 2022 meeting, the VCA Committee reviewed public comments and voted on final language related to this proposal. However, during the final review of the policy language by Staff following the meeting, there was an error identified in the definition of covered VCA graft failure. This was limited to uterus in error, as there was already a new definition for "planned removal of a uterus" as part of this proposal. Staff also presented a revised definition for the "date of removal" in the Transplant Recipient Registration (TRR) and Transplant Recipient Follow Up" (TRF) data definitions, which removed "failure or" from the date of removal definition.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked if a recipient who dies in a car accident is considered a graft failure. Staff noted that when reporting a recipient death, the transplant program can indicate the primary cause of death on the Transplant Recipient Follow-Up (TRF) form.

The VCA Committee approved the changes for submission to the Board of Directors in June 2022 by a vote of 11 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

2. Apply Transplant Program Inactivity Requirements to VCA

The Chair presented the overview of this project that would remove the VCA exclusion from the OPTN Bylaw program inactivation requirements. This change in Appendix K would require that VCA programs notify the OPTN and their patients if the program meets either short-term or long-term inactivation, but would not establish functional inactivity requirements for VCA programs. Additionally, this proposal would update the list of VCA transplant programs listed in OPTN Bylaws, Appendix J: Membership and Personnel Requirements for Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplant Programs to replace "genitourinary organ" with uterus, external male genitalia, and other genitourinary organ.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked how short-term inactivity was defined. Staff noted that short-term inactivity is defined in OPTN Bylaws, Appendix K as “a transplant program that is inactive for no more than 14 consecutive days.”¹ Additionally, the OPTN Bylaws require transplant programs to provide written notice to candidates if they inactivate their waiting list for 15 or more consecutive days or 28 or more cumulative days during a calendar year.

A member commented that he saw no reason why VCA programs should be exempt from this bylaw. Another member added that it should not be a burden for VCA programs to notify their candidates due to the low number of candidates waiting for a VCA transplant.

A member commented about the process for reactivating a program through the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC). Staff noted that the reactivation process typically takes less time than the approval process for full program approvals since an MPSC subcommittee can provide an interim approval for program reactivation.

The Committee supported sending this proposal out for Summer 2022 public comment by a vote of 12 approved, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Next steps:

Finalize public comment proposal for distribution during the Summer 2022 cycle.

3. OPTN Policy Oversight Committee Update

The Committee Vice-Chair provided an update on the work of the POC. This included the following topics:

- POC membership
- Role in policy development
- Project approval process
- Project prioritization
- Portfolio management – project benefit
- Project capacity
- Impact on committee projects

Summary of discussion:

The Committee Chair noted that it is important for committee members to understand how the POC’s oversight role affects the work of the committees.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 20, 2022 (Teleconference)

¹ https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/lgbbmahi/optn_bylaws.pdf

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Bohdan Pomahac, Chair
 - Sandra Amaral, Vice Chair
 - Mark Wakefield
 - Brian Berthiaume
 - Donnie Rickelman
 - Patrick Smith
 - Debra Priebe
 - Paige Porrett
 - Darla Granger
 - Lori Ewoldt
 - Amanda Gruendell
 - Vijay Gorantla
 - Stefan Tullius
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Catherine Parton
 - Sarah Booker
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Robert Hunter
 - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**
 - Max Hendrix
 - Christina Kaufman
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Amir Dorafshar