

OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee

Meeting Summary

October 20, 2022

Conference Call

Stacy McKean, RN, Chair

Natalie Santiago-Blackwell, RN, MSN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/20/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome
2. Data Collection for Lung Mortality Models
3. Hepatitis B Vaccination Status Data Definition Update
4. Vice-Chair Nomination and Selection Process
5. Volunteer for the OPTN Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

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

1. Welcome

Committee leadership and staff welcomed the Committee.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee had no questions or comments.

2. Update on Data Collection for Lung Mortality Models

Staff presented an update on the OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee's ongoing project to update data collection on disease severity of lung candidates and requested feedback.

Presentation summary:

Staff explained that the public comment proposal was reviewed by this committee during its September 27, 2022 in-person meeting. Staff reminded members that the goal is to collect more data on lung candidates to better inform allocation decisions, considering expected waiting list survival and expected post-transplant outcomes.

Staff explained that the Lung Committee is considering collecting some of the data in the Transplant Information Electronic Data Interchange (TIEDI). As proposed, the data collection would occur in Waitlist. Implementation would be easier in TIEDI, however, the Lung Subcommittee feels strongly about collecting the data in Waitlist for the following reasons:

- The ability to update data fields while patients are still listed in order to better reflect changing clinical criteria (data collection in TIEDI is a one-time submission)
- It is easier to incorporate new criteria in the allocation score if data already exists in Waitlist
- It encourages data submission as part of current workflow for registering and managing listings

Staff asked for feedback on collecting the data in Waitlist vs in TIEDI from the perspective of transplant coordinators.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice-Chair explained a concern that her center has a data team to do the TIEDI forms separate from the transplant coordinators, so collecting data in Waitlist would add work for the coordinators who do not usually do data collection. Several other members echoed this concern, as they have the same set-up in their centers.

Staff asked for clarification about the workflow between the two different teams. The Vice-Chair explained that the data team's sole purpose is data abstraction, and they have the time built into their jobs to do this work. Another member explained that it is important to keep the data team as the ones collecting data, because each data element in TIEDI is defined and the source documentation is clear. This member explained that at large centers, the data team is responsible for and able to keep up with changes in definitions and source documentation, maintaining data integrity.

There was no further discussion.

Next Steps

Staff will take this feedback back to the relevant committees and subcommittees.

3. Hepatitis B Vaccination Status Data Definition Update

Staff presented the proposed update to the Hepatitis B vaccination status data definition.

Presentation summary:

Staff explained that updates to this definition were spurred by member questions, which were taken to the OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC), which then made updates and shared the updates with the OPTN Data Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC asked to obtain further input on the definition from coordinators.

Summary of discussion:

One member shared confusion regarding the definition of "full vaccination series" as type of vaccine and evidence of serologic response. This member asked if a patient completed the series but did not show evidence of immunity, if you were supposed to select "no," then "other." Staff explained that this would be the best option in this case- under "other" the explanation would be "no serologic response evident." The reason for this definition was to account for different vaccine manufacturers and to align with CDC guidance.

One member explained that the verbiage behind "immunity" is confusing and asked how you would select the appropriate option for someone with immunity from Hepatitis B infection. UNOS Staff agreed this is potentially confusing and stated that the explanation next to "immunity" should read "evidence of sero-positive based on lab assay." One member asked if a candidate does not have surface antibodies if they would be considered immune, citing the explanation about needing a booster if surface antibody results were negative. Staff explained that this may be removed from the explanation and stated that DTAC leadership initially wanted to include it to account for candidates who received the full course of vaccination and did not exhibit a sero-positive response. One member asked how to input a candidate with a current Hepatitis B infection, and staff explained that you would select "no," then "other" and specify "current infection."

One member asked if "no serologic response" could be added as a drop-down menu item from the reasons listed under "no," as she felt this would be a common outcome. Other members echoed this. Staff explained that adding additional or adjusting drop-down items is a long process because of the IT programming involved, and that DTAC and the DAC are specifically looking for input on the current

definition and drop-down items before implementation. Additional menu items would be considered later as part of an enhancement request. Staff explained that DTAC is considering adding an “in progress” option for candidates who have received part of a full vaccination series.

There was no further discussion.

Next Steps

The committee will receive the changes via email and provide additional feedback if necessary.

4. Vice-Chair Nomination and Selection Process

Staff presented the process of nominating and selecting a new Vice-Chair.

Presentation Summary

Staff explained the goals of the selection process, including to increase transparency, promote inclusivity, and more thorough review of candidates. Committee members will select their top four candidates from those interested in the position, and the top four are then interviewed by the current committee leadership. Next, two finalists are recommended to the OPTN President-Elect for final appointment. Staff explained that Vice Chairs also serve on the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC). Specific to the Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC), preferred qualifications include being a transplant coordinator and participation in at least one committee workgroup.

Summary of Discussion

The current Chair expressed appreciation for the Vice Chair position and explained that the position is a great way to network, become more involved, and really make a difference. The Vice Chair position is a bit more of a time-commitment, but it also allows more insight into the policy process. The current Vice Chair echoed this, and encouraged anyone interested in the position to apply.

Next steps

Staff will send an email with a call for nominations and details about the entire selection process.

5. Volunteer for the Ad-hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee

Staff explained that a TCC volunteer is requested for the Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee.

Presentation Summary

Staff explained this is a great opportunity and a very busy committee. This committee is currently working on a proposal to Expand Simultaneous Liver-Kidney Sharing, among other things. This is a one-year term with the opportunity to extend the term. They meet the second Wednesday of every month from 3:00-4:00 pm Eastern time. The current Chair explained this is an important committee and shared her experience of being on the committee last year.

Next Steps

Staff called for interested volunteers to come forward via email.

Adjourn

Staff and Committee leadership thanked the Committee for joining, and encouraged members to attend the next meeting on November 17, 2022.

Upcoming Meeting

- November 17, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Stacy McKean
 - Natalie Santiago-Blackwell
 - Angele Lacks
 - Brenda Durand
 - Donna Campbell
 - Karl E. Neumann
 - Heather Bastardi
 - Heather Miller-Webb
 - Jamie Myers
 - Kelsey McCauley
 - Maria Casarella
 - Robin Petersen-Webster
 - Sergio Manzano
 - Rachel White
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - None
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Brooke Chenault
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kieran McMahon
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ross Walton
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Taylor Livelli
 - Kevin Daub