

OPTN Lung Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

July 13, 2023

Conference Call

Marie Budev, DO, Chair

Matthew Hartwig, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Lung Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 7/13/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and agenda
2. OPTN Updates
3. Lung Continuous Distribution: Three Month Monitoring
4. Public Comment and Regional Meeting Preview
5. Next steps and closing comments

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

1. Welcome and agenda

The Chair welcomed Committee members and presenters.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion by the Committee.

2. OPTN Updates

On June 26, 2023, the OPTN Board of Directors approved the following proposals:

- [Establish Member System Access, Security Framework, and Incident Management and Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Optimizing Usage of Offer Filters](#)
- [Modify Heart Policy for ABOi Offers to Pediatric Candidates](#)
- [Align OPTN KPD Blood Type Matching and Establish Donor Re-Evaluation Requirements](#)
- [Expand Required SLK Allocation](#)
- [Guidance for National Liver Review Board](#)
- [Improve Deceased Donor Evaluation for Endemic Diseases](#)

The OPTN Board of Directors declined, after discussion, to approve the white paper, [Ethical Evaluation of Multiple Listing](#).

Additionally, the OPTN implemented the kidney-after-lung and kidney-after-heart safety net on June 29, 2023. Updates to the eligibility criteria for simultaneous lung-kidney and simultaneous heart-kidney allocation are slated for implementation on September 28, 2023. Transplant programs may enter data regarding candidates' eligibility for required shares ahead of the implementation.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair explained the OPTN Board of Directors worried the white paper contradicted current policy and expressed concern that the white paper was already made public through public comment.

3. Lung Continuous Distribution: Three Month Monitoring

Staff presented a monitoring report that focused on three months prior and three months post the implementation of [Establish Continuous Distribution of Lungs](#). The policy eras examined in this report were:

- Pre: December 7th, 2023 to March 8th, 2023
- Post: March 9th, 2023 to June 8th, 2023

The report included small sample sizes. A data lag allowed by OPTN policy had not fully passed so data are subject to change. General trends presented may change as more data are collected.

Data Summary:

Some key takeaways included:

- OPTN Waiting List removals for death or too sick decreased from 52 to 30
- Lung-alone transplants increased by about 16%
- Transplants for blood type O recipients decreased from 308 to 276
- Median distance from the donor hospital to transplant center increased from 193 nautical miles (NM) to 344 NM
- Utilization and non-utilization rates were similar
- Median sequence number of final acceptor increased from seven to 14

Summary of discussion:

Decision #1: The Committee requested data on the number of OPTN Waiting List removals for death or too sick stratified by diagnosis group and by age group.

Decision #2: The Committee requested data on waiting times by region, medical urgency, blood type and diagnosis group, and more details on pediatric transplants, including how many pediatric donor lungs are going to adult recipients and vice versa.

Decision #3: The Committee requested data on whether there are more blood type compatible transplants, e.g., whether more blood type O donor lungs are going to recipients with compatible rather than identical blood types.

Members vocalized concern over the decrease in transplants for blood type O recipients and diagnosis group B recipients. A member from OPTN Region 8 also expressed concern over organs leaving the Midwest. She explained the Midwest experiences a much smaller donor pool than other regions. HRSA staff noted historically, deceased donor transplant rates will increase from year to year. Utilization and non-utilization rates will be a better measure of the success of this policy.

4. Public Comment and Regional Meeting Preview

The Committee reviewed recommendations of public comment proposals they should provide feedback on and the upcoming regional meeting dates.

Summary of discussion:

Decision #4: The Committee will receive public comment presentations on Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit, Deceased Donor Support Therapy Data Collection, Ethical Considerations of Normothermic Regional Perfusion, and Continuous Distribution of Hearts.

The Chair asked if the Committee should review Recognizing Seasonal and Geographically Endemic Infections in Organ Donors: Considerations during Deceased and Living Donor Evaluation. The Review Board Chair responded this is not needed because the proposal discusses endemic diseases not specific to lung transplant.

5. Next steps and closing comments

The Committee will hold two listening sessions, one for medical directors and one for patients, on July 25th and July 26th.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair emphasized the importance of sharing the Committee's concerns and assuring the community the OPTN will continue to monitor this policy change.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 10, 2023, teleconference, 5 pm ET

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Marie Budev
 - Matthew Hartwig
 - Erika Lease
 - Brian Keller
 - David Erasmus
 - Ed Cantu
 - Errol Bush
 - Jackie Russe
 - Julia Klesney-Tait
 - Katja Fort Rhoden
 - Laura Schaheen
 - Pablo Sanchez
 - Sid Kapnadak
 - Soma Jyothula
 - Tina Melicoff
 - Wayne Tsuang
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - David Schladt
 - Maryam Valapour
 - Nicholas Wood
 - Katherine Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Taylor Livelli
 - Ashley Woodards
 - Chelsea Weibel
 - Holly Sobczack
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Tatenda Mupfudze