

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

April 18, 2024

Teleconference

PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Lori Markham, RN, MSN, CPTC, CCRN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 4/18/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Machine Perfusion Data Project
2. Removal of Death Notification Registration (DNR)- New Project
3. Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit- Implementation Update
4. Late Turndown Improvement Project

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

1. Machine Perfusion Data Project

The Committee received an update regarding the next steps surrounding their machine perfusion data collection project.

Summary of discussion:

There was no further discussion about the machine perfusion data collection project.

Next Steps:

OPTN Contractor Staff will reach out to the organ-specific committees to collect the needed information for machine perfusion, as well as work on finalizing the workgroup roster.

2. Removal of Death Notification Registration- New Project

The Committee discussed a potential new project that involves the removal of the death notification record (DNR).

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not make any decisions.

The Chair pointed out this is a mandate from HRSA, and that this will be a comparatively easy transition from the DNR to the new form. They added that some data fields are not necessarily entered correctly or easily reportable, however, OPOs will easily overcome that. The Vice Chair commented that this isn't very straightforward and is complicated since the DNR will be replaced, but there is uncertainty about what it will be replaced with. A member suggested adding verbiage that reflected that this proposal is contingent on the replacement of a new form.

Next Steps:

The Committee will continue to receive updates regarding this project as they become available. This project will be going to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee on May 9th, 2024.

3. Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit- Implementation Update

The Committee learned that the Modify Organ Offer Acceptance Limit project will be going into effect in May 2024.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not make any decisions.

The Chair noted that a reminder about this policy implementation will need to go out to community members, which the OPTN contractor has always done well. They added that OPOs will need reminders and act quickly to ensure that no one is holding organs and preventing them from going to other candidates. A member emphasized that sentiment and added that having a consistent communication plan is a good idea.

Next Steps:

The Committee will continue to receive updates about the project implementation as they become available.

4. Late Turndown Improvement Project

The Committee discussed the OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) referral surrounding late turndowns, as there is no established definition for a late turndown. The goal of this project is to assess the frequency of late turndowns to inform standard definition(s) and inform policy development.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not make any decisions.

The Vice Chair, who is part of the workgroup, mentioned that they met the previous day and felt very encouraged by the direction this project is going. They added that for the next 30 days, starting on April 17th, the OPOs that agreed to participate will enter information about any late decline and the case activity into a standardized form. The workgroup determined that each OPO will decide what is a late decline, and there is another form of what each OPO may define as a late decline. They determined some basic definitions, which include when an organ recovery must be rescheduled, if the organ is accepted fully and subsequently declined for a known & defined reason (such as age), and organs accepted, which are then later declined, therefore resulting in a rescue pathway. The workgroup is hopeful to have ample data to be able to provide a definition of what a late decline is and summarize issues that OPOs face but are not captured by the current system. The Vice Chair added that they will be requesting that the data resulting from this 30-day experience be shared with the Committee. Additionally, the OPTN Board of Directors will receive the data and discuss it at their June 2024 meeting. As part of this 30-day data collection, surgical injury, as well as transportation issues resulting in the need to reallocate, or the loss of an organ will need to be shared as well. One member who is on the workgroup added that these events should still be reported to the patient safety portal.

Next Steps:

The Committee will receive the data at a future meeting in hopes of coming up with a definition of a late decline.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 16, 2024, at 1pm ET (teleconference)
- June 20, 2024, at 1 pm ET (teleconference)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Lori Markham
 - Dan DiSante
 - Doug Butler
 - Jim Sharrock (visiting board member)
 - Kurt Shutterly
 - Micah Davis
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - Stephen Gray
 - Theresa Daly
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Jon Miller
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Alina Martinez
 - Houlder Hudgins
 - Kaitlin Swanner
 - Kayla Balfour
 - Kevin Daub
 - Robert Hunter
 - Ross Walton
 - Shelby Jones
 - Taylor Michalski
- **Other**
 - Kerri Jones (incoming Committee member)