

OPTN Heart Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

January 18, 2022

Conference Call

Shelley Hall, MD, Chair
Rocky Daly, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Heart Transplantation Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 01/18/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. General Committee Business
2. Discuss Committee's Projects

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

1. General Committee Business

The Committee discussed various updates and general committee business.

Summary of discussion:

Public comment proposals for January-March 2022

The Committee reviewed the full list of public comment items and will receive presentations on *Change in CPRA Calculation* from the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee, *Update on Continuous Distribution of Kidneys and Pancreata Request for Feedback* from the OPTN Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation Committees, and *Establish Eligibility Criteria and Safety Net for Heart-Kidney and Lung-Kidney Allocation* from the OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Transplantation Committee. An official public comment will be submitted, on behalf of the Committee as a whole, for the three public comment items they review.

Regional meeting dates and information

Regional meeting online registration information can be found in the meeting materials and on the OPTN website. All regional meetings will be virtual for this public comment cycle.

Discuss Heart Committee needs assessment regarding potential future members

The Committee reviewed its composition as of July 1, 2022, to reflect the loss of members who will roll off of the Committee on June 30, 2022. UNOS staff highlighted the previously identified Committee needs and asked for feedback on any additional considerations. The Chair noted that a cardiac advanced practice practitioner would likely take longer to fill because they have not historically been involved in the OPTN and may require additional education and outreach efforts to engage.

Projected 2022 release dates for certain monitoring reports

UNOS staff informed the Committee that the following monitoring reports will be released in the coming months:

- 3 year *Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System*¹
- 6 month *National Heart Review Board of Pediatrics*²
- 2 year *Eliminate the Use of DSAs in Thoracic Distribution*³

UNOS staff asked if there is a monitoring report they would like to be prioritized and the consensus was the 3 year *Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System* monitoring report. The Chair emphasized the necessity to add a 3 year survival rate in the monitoring report for the *Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System*. A member suggested looking at survival data by statuses to compare how they have changed from the old allocation system to the revised one. A member noted that the outcomes between the two allocation schemes may be skewed insofar that more patients received left ventricular assist devices (LVAD) in the previous system but are now receiving transplants.

A member added that in addition to survival rates, the report should identify the statuses that patients are being transplanted at. This concern was expressed in particular because of patients who are transplanted while waiting for an exception request to process and are ultimately denied the higher status. This data would provide a better idea of what type of patients are being transplanted at each status and help to identify if there are any populations who may have been neglected through the current allocation system. A member noted that survival is just one, measureable element of post-transplant outcomes and emphasized the importance of quality of life after metric.

Follow-up: Heart and Heart-Lung Donor Acceptance Criteria

UNOS staff shared the feedback that removing local versus import would not impact metrics set forth through the *Enhance Transplant Performance Metrics* proposal developed by the OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC). The Committee will move forward with its recommendation to IT to move forward with removing the local versus import data field.

2. Discuss Committee's Projects

UNOS staff shared the member interest on the Committee's project. The Chair noted that the educational emails will be an ongoing project, whereas the *Revise "Coronary Artery Disease" and "Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy" Data Elements* project will hopefully be able to go out for public comment in August 2022, and the *Donor Heart Data* project will likely take longer to develop.

Summary of discussion:

Educational emails

The Chair informed the Committee that these emails would be sent out to the heart community on a quarterly basis and asked for topic ideas. The Chair suggested highlighting Status 2E (Policy 6.1.B.v: Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump) exceptions guidance document and inform the community of the correct

¹ Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee, *OPTN/UNOS Policy Notice Proposal to Modify the Adult Heart Allocation System*, January 2017, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/policies-bylaws/public-comment/modify-adult-heart-allocation-2016-2nd-round/>.

² Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee, *Notice of OPTN Policy and Guidelines Changes National Heart Review Board for Pediatrics*, June 2020, accessed February 14, 2022, https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/media/3841/2020-06_thoracic_nhrb_for_pediatrics_policy_notice.pdf.

³ Thoracic Transplantation Committee, *Policy Notice Eliminate the Use of DSAs in Thoracic Distribution*, June 2019, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/policies-bylaws/public-comment/eliminate-the-use-of-dsas-in-thoracic-distribution/>.

when it is acceptable to submit an exception request, technical formatting, and the overall exception process.

A member suggested sharing the survival data from the new allocation system, discussed during the monitoring reports conversation. UNOS staff informed the Committee that they would not be able to share any new, unpublished data. A member disagreed that sharing just a snippet of the data would be a disservice to the information and legitimacy of the full report. A member disagreed with the sentiment, stating that some snippets of information help to provide a better understanding of what's occurring in real time as opposed to waiting for a peer reviewed journal article using the data. A member pointed out that the Committee could go in different directions with these emails depending on what the goal is.

Revise Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) and Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy (CAV) data elements

The purpose of this project is to revise the Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) data element that is currently on the Transplant Registration Form (TRF) and creating a new data element for Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy (CAV) on the TRF. The Chair asked members to consider if the workgroup should rename CAD to 'donor derived CAD,' remove it completely in favor of CAV, or what alternate methods what capture the intent of the changes. When developing the project form, it is important to make a strong argument to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) about why the heart committee should proceed with this project, including why the changes are important, the timeliness of the changes, and its impact.

Develop Heart-specific, donor-related data elements

Since this project is a data element revision, it will require working through the data checklist process and include check ins with the OPTN Data Advisory Committee (DAC). Furthermore, since changes will be made to the TIEDI form, it will require review and approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) following approval from the OPTN Board of Directors. UNOS staff highlighted the donor-related data elements that the Committee discussed as part of their Primary Graft Dysfunction (PGD) request for feedback and subsequent policy proposal.

Next steps:

Please reach out to UNOS staff if you are interested in taking the lead on drafting an educational email. UNOS staff will reach out about scheduling the initial workgroup meetings for the Revise CAD/CAV and Donor Data Elements projects.

Upcoming Meetings

- February 15, 2022
- March 15, 2022
- April 19, 2022 – in person meeting in Chicago, IL
- May 17, 2022
- June 21, 2022

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Adam Schneider
 - Amrut Ambardekar
 - Arun Krishnamoorthy
 - David Baran
 - Fawwaz Shaw
 - Hannah Copeland
 - J.D. Menteer
 - Jennifer Carapellucci
 - Jonah Odum
 - Jose Garcia
 - Michael Kwan
 - Nader Moazami
 - Rocky Daly
 - Shelley Hall
 - Tariq Ahmad
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Yoon Son Ahn
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Brittany Judge
 - Eric Messick
 - Isaac Hager
 - Janis Rosenberg
 - Keighly Bradbrook
 - Krissy Laurie
 - Laura Schmitt
 - Leah Slife
 - Sara Rose Wells
 - Susan Tlusty