

OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

December 14, 2022

Conference Call

Sandra Amaral, MD, MHS, Chair
Vijay Gorantla, MD, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting on 12/14/2022 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Feedback on Draft Sections: *Update Guidance on Optimizing VCA Recovery Project*

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

1. Feedback on Draft Section: *Update on Optimizing VCA Recovery Project*

The Committee provided feedback on the draft sections of the *Update on Optimizing VCA Recovery* project.

Summary of discussion:

VCA Staffing

A member shared concerns about transplant programs having a dedicated coordinator to grow their program. The term dedicated coordinator could be misleading and imply that the coordinator is responsible for the entire program and may not have other responsibilities. A member agreed and suggested that the hire should have familiarity with transplant and sufficient protected time to dedicate to VCA.

A member stated that program and staffing responsibilities are often unique to each program. A program coordinator may have other duties outside of coordination, such as negotiating with insurance companies and ensuring patients go to their appointments, which may not be consistent with the role of other coordinators. Another member expressed that each program determines how they want to staff their program. This member continued, explaining that VCA programs are unique, small-volume programs when compared to other organ-specific programs. Therefore, it may be more beneficial to provide guidance on how to support staff in the execution of a complex task that is done infrequently rather than guiding how to recruit and staff their program. For example, programs experienced in VCA could provide mentorship and educational resources to less experienced programs. A member pointed out that the title of the guidance document is outdated. The presenter replied that the title could be updated.

Education for VCA Recovery and Transplant

During discussions regarding increasing VCA visibility within an institution and the public, a member expressed that the term visibility could be taken out of context. The presenter explained that in previous meetings, it was discussed that some non- VCA staff at programs do not know that their own program performs VCA transplants. The presenter stated that the goal is to increase awareness of VCA recovery and agreed that the term awareness might be a better word choice than visibility.

A member suggested that it may be valuable to include medical, psychosocial, and surgical education for staff within the guidance document. Another member asked who the targeted audience should be for the guidance document. The presenter replied that it could be anyone within the institution. The presenter suggested separating education material based on the targeted audiences, for example, education for medical and non-medical staff.

A member stated that as the Committee continues to draft the various sections of the guidance document, it is important to remember whom the document will benefit most. Another member asked who is responsible for education in a transplant program. A member responded that, in their experience, it should be the director; therefore, the document should be written towards that audience. Another member added that although their coordinator may not learn much from a guidance document, the marketing group or institutional leadership may benefit from a guidance document.

A member asked what the goal of the guidance document was. The presenter replied that the purpose is to provide guidance on best practices for VCA recovery and transplantation. The Chair recommended reviewing data that would be able to guide the Committee to develop a guidance document, such as looking at how many Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) are currently engaging in any form of VCA.

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to develop the sections of the *Update Guidance on Optimizing VCA Recovery Project*.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- January 25, 2023

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Sandra Amaral
 - Brian Berthiaume
 - Charlie Thomas
 - Christina Kaufman
 - Debra Priebe
 - Elizabeth Shipman
 - Lawrence Gottlieb
 - Paige Porrett
 - Bohdan Pomahac
 - Max Hendrix
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Shannon Dunne
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Tamika Watkins
 - Kelley Poff
 - Catherine Parton
 - Jesse Howell
 - Kristina Hogan
 - Lauren Mauk
 - Sarah Booker