

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization Committee

Meeting Summary

March 9, 2023

Conference Call

Kurt Shutterly, RN, CPTC Chair
PJ Geraghty, MBA, CPTC Vice-Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee met via Citrix GoToMeeting on 03/09/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Expand Required Simultaneous Liver-Kidney Allocation
2. Identify Priority Shares in Kidney Multi Organ Allocation
3. Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines

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

1. Expand Required Simultaneous Liver-Kidney Allocation

The Chair of OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Allocation Committee provided an overview of this proposal. The purpose of the proposal is to improve equity in access to simultaneous liver-kidney (SLK) transplant and align liver-kidney policy with heart-kidney policy. The proposal will expand the distance for required SLK offers from 250 to 500 nautical miles.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members offered the following comments:

- Concern about extending cold time on organs with the increased distance and the potential impact on kidney non-use.
- Several members supported this change to align the required share distance with heart-kidney allocation.
- Support for providing clarity in the policy so that OPOs aren't making clinical decisions on kidney shares outside the current 250 nautical miles.

2. Identify Priority Shares in Kidney Multi Organ Allocation

The Chair of OPTN Ad Hoc Multi-Organ Allocation Committee provided an overview of this concept paper. The goal is to establish an updated framework for kidney multi-organ allocation that considers the following:

- Offers to kidney-alone vs. kidney multi-organ candidates
- Required multi-organ offers of equal priority
- Organ offer acceptance conflicts vs. required multi-organ offer
- Balancing direction vs. flexibility

The concept paper requests feedback on the following concepts:

- Required kidney shares

- Limit kidney multi-organ allocation
- Offering kidneys to candidates of equal priority
- Organ offer acceptance and required shares
- Balancing direction vs. flexibility for organ procurement organizations (OPOs)

Summary of discussion:

Committee members offered the following comments:

- Several members supported the priority for certain kidney alone candidates, particularly the high CPRA candidates who might be disadvantaged because they get fewer compatible organ offers.
- Comment about marginal kidneys being allocated to a multi-organ candidates and the increased risk for delayed graft failure or poorer outcomes.
- Agreement that once an isolated kidney is offered, it should not be withdrawn in favor of a multi-organ candidate.
- Comment about how complex the various multi-organ allocation policies are and how there is potential for conflicting policy language that does not provide adequate guidance for OPOs. A member added that his OPO tries to identify the MOT candidates first but acknowledged that better guidance for OPOs is needed to identify which organ combinations have higher priority. Another member acknowledged that identifying the priority is challenging because it depends on the individual patients.
- Several members noted that organ turndowns also impact both kidney alone and multi-organ candidates when the OPO is trying to reallocate one or multiple organs.
- Comment about needing strong policies to hold both OPOs and transplant centers accountable when trying to allocate organs.
- Members expressed support for future efforts to consolidate the multi-organ policies.

3. Continuous Distribution of Livers and Intestines

The Chair of the OPTN Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee provided an overview of this request for feedback. It includes more information on which attributes the Committee plans to include in the first iteration of continuous distribution and outlines the upcoming steps in the process, specifically, how the Committee plans to build rating scales and determine weights for the attributes.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members offered the following comments:

- There was some discussion about the use of population density as part of the placement efficiency attribute and how donor availability or eligible death density also needs to be evaluated as this project moves forward.
- Concern that distance alone is being used to determine placement efficiency. For example, with the new lung continuous distribution, an East Coast OPO had five of the first ten candidates on a lung match run located on or near the West Coast of the United States. While providing equity in access to organs, broader distribution of organs creates logistical challenges for OPOs and increase in non-use rates.

- Members agreed that placement efficiency should be give a higher weight within the continuous distribution framework.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 21, 2023 (Detroit, MI)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Kurt Shutterly
 - PJ Geraghty
 - Bruce Nicely
 - Chad Ezzell
 - Clint Hostetler
 - Debra Cooper
 - Donna Smith
 - Doug Butler
 - Erin Halpin
 - Judy Storfjell
 - Larry Suplee
 - Malay Shah
 - Meg Rogers
 - Samantha Endicott
 - Sharyn Sawczak
 - Sue McClung
 - Kevin Koomalsingh
 - Valerie Chipman
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Mesmin Germain
 - Adriana Martinez
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katherine Audette
 - Nicholas Wood
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Robert Hunter
 - Katrina Gauntt
 - Austin Chapple
 - Kevin Daub
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Tony Ponsiglione
 - Krissy Laurie
- **Other Attendees**
 - James Pomposelli
 - Lisa Stocks