

OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

November 16, 2023

Conference Call

Stacy McKean, RN, BSN, MHA, CPTC Chair

Christine Brenner, RN, BSN, CPTC, CCTC Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee (the Committee) met via WebEx teleconference on 11/16/2023 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome & Housekeeping
2. Implementation Day Idea

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

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

The Vice Chair welcomed the Committee.

2. Implementation Day Idea

The Committee received a presentation and gave feedback regarding the "Implementation Day" idea.

Summary of discussion:

There were no decisions made regarding this item.

The Vice Chair noted that having system changes be released at a certain time each month has its advantages and disadvantages. They suggested that if this were to be implemented, there should be a caveat to allow for changes if something urgent were to occur that requires immediate attention and action. A member agreed, adding that at their transplant program, the email burden is overwhelming, therefore having an expectation of when implementations will occur and having it condensed in one format may be helpful for people.

A member agreed that having implementations on a set schedule would be preferred, especially with the email burden. The member added that knowing when to expect important emails would be helpful, so they don't get missed or overlooked.

A member echoed previous sentiments, commenting that this would be operationally very advantageous for transplant programs that not only have the current burden of monitoring for these changes and implementing them on a non-rotating schedule, but it would help in quality assurance from a compliance perspective. They continued, noting that sometimes modifications must be made to the transplant program's operating systems or electronic medical records (EMRs) and that can sometimes be a struggle with the lack of resources from their transplant center, as well as the time constraints put on them. They noted that having a better idea of when to expect implementation to go into effect and what it entails would be extremely helpful. They added that a benefit of using an implementation day is

that it would give the UNOS Information Technology staff the opportunity to do a soft launch and test for unexpected issues, which would allow for modifications before the hard launch. The member advocated for having an exception pathway to allow for issues that may require emergent action and immediate implementation.

A member expressed that they did not see a benefit or drawback to having the cadence being one day as opposed to a week timeframe but noted that it maybe would depend on the burden of the changes that are being discussed or implemented and how much of an additional operational burden it creates for programs.

The Vice Chair believes that it would be easier to look back at weekly emails and search for specific information if it's in the same format and coming out in regular intervals.

Next steps:

The idea will be discussed with the OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee. Feedback will be compiled and brought to the OPTN Executive Committee in December.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 31, 2024 (Houston, TX)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Amy Olsen
 - Anne O'Boye
 - Ashley Anne Hamby
 - Ashley Cardenas
 - Brandy Baldwin
 - Christine Brenner
 - Heather Bastardi
 - Karl Neumann
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Rachel White
 - Robin Petersen-Webster
 - Stacy Sexton
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Darby Harris
 - Kayla Balfour
 - Kevin Daub
 - Ross Walton
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Susan Tlusty