

**OPTN Histocompatibility Committee  
Meeting Summary  
November 12, 2024  
Webex Meeting**

**Gerald Morris, MD, Chair  
Kelley Hitchman, PhD, MS, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Histocompatibility Committee (“Committee”) met via WebEx teleconference on 11/12/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

- 1. VXM (Virtual Crossmatch) Recap/Discussion**
- 2. Proposed Serotypes Discussion**

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

### **1. VXM Recap/Discussion**

**No decisions were made.**

### Summary of Presentation:

The Chair led discussion on the Histocompatibility Committee-sponsored virtual crossmatching webinar that was held on November 5, 2024. The Chair reviewed questions received during the webinar, including:

- Laboratory requirements
- Best practices and communications
- Documentation and written records
- Final compatibility assessments
- Sample testing/collection requirements
- Transplant agreements as applied to VXM
- Benefits of high-resolution typing
- Crossmatching time limits
- Success rates and increasing efficiency

Leadership discussed possibly putting out guidance for the histocompatibility community regarding virtual crossmatching.

### Summary of Discussion:

A member stated that the Committee should clarify delegation of tasks in performing virtual crossmatching tests. The Chair agreed and said that members can later discuss areas of virtual crossmatch that may need guidance. The Vice Chair added that external definitions and guidance do not yet exist. A member mentioned that past guidance by the Committee on this topic was put out in 2017.

Several members mentioned the importance of waiting for CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) guidance. A member suggested seeking input from the Organ Procurement Organization

Committee. Members discussed current OPO policy around virtual crossmatch, such as current sample requirements. The Committee discussed impacts of possible delegation guidance, which included mentioning possible outcomes for delegating signoffs for virtual crossmatch and its effect on small laboratories.

A member discussed dividing responsibilities between lab directors, technical supervisors, and clinical consultants, of which there may be overlap. A member responded that some labs may not be supportive of single-director signoffs for virtual crossmatch because of current policies that allow technologists (or others) to sign-off. The Chair mentioned that the Committee should be careful with direct delegation in its sign-off guidance, while also acknowledging that some virtual crossmatch tasks can be performed by others.

## **2. Proposed Serotypes Discussion**

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| <b>No decisions were made.</b> |
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### Summary of Presentation:

The Chair mentioned the new literature published about proposed serological nomenclature changes. Leadership suggested that Committee members read the literature to prepare for a future project around this topic. The Chair also mentioned that the proposed timeline should include transition for laboratories to adjust to the new policy. A member asked about the future of candidate matchmaking in histocompatibility, and the Chair responded that it is a separate topic i.e. compatible versus not compatible or compatible versus more compatible.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- Jan 14, 2024

## Attendance

- **Committee Members**
  - Kelley Hitchman
  - Qingyong Xu
  - Ryan Pena
  - Michael Gautreaux
  - Laurine Bow
  - Helene McMurray
  - Bobbie Rhodes-Clark
  - Hemant Parekh
  - Gerald Morris
  - Crystal Usenko
  - Jerome Saltarrelli
  - Tiffany Bratton
  - Darryl Nethercot
  - Andres Jaramillo
  - Michael Hurtik
  - John Lunz
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Marilyn Levi
  - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
  - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Jamie Panko
  - Betsy Gans
  - Joann White
  - Amelia Deveraux
  - Thomas Dolan