

**OPTN Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee  
Requirements for Communicating Transplant Disease Transmission Workgroup  
Meeting Summary  
July 23, 2024  
Conference Call**

**Stephanie Pouch, MD, MS, Chair  
Rachel Miller, MD, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Requirements for Communicating Transplant Disease Transmission Workgroup met via Webex teleconference on 07/23/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review Draft Policy Language

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

## **Review Draft Policy Language**

The Workgroup reviewed the draft policy language to clarify the reporting requirements for the transplant program. The Workgroup was asked to provide feedback on the draft policy language to ensure the language is inclusive of:

- Defining an unexpected disease transmission event
- Defining a sick lung recipient
- Identifying reporting requirements for lung recipients

## Summary of discussion:

**Decision #1:** There was consensus to revise the draft policy language to clarify further the reporting requirements for sick and non-sick lung recipients.

A member stated that the draft policy language does not account for reporting requirements for non-sick lung recipients. These lung recipients have organisms recovered from their lungs but are not sick. She further commented that it's essential that the policy language reflects that if the transplant program discovers that a lung recipient has an incidental positive finding from the lung, and it's on the [Pathogens of Special Interest list](#), then it needs to be reported. The idea is to avoid transplant programs reporting every positive culture from a lung recipient because it would be overburdening.

Reviewing the policy language with the transplant program reporting requirements algorithm, the Chair noted that the algorithm should reflect respiratory tract testing.

A member suggested structuring the reporting requirements for a sick and non-sick lung recipient in a table format for clarity. The Chair commented that it's crucial that the policy language clarifies what needs to be reported and what does not, especially in the context of lung transplantation and respiratory cultures. A member stated that clarifying reporting requirements for sick vs. non-sick lung recipients would be helpful. He inquired about how to account for lung patients who are not ill but whose respiratory tract culture grew a pathogenic organism, such as tuberculosis. A member answered

that if the lung recipient is not sick and the culture is pathogenic, the transplant program would need to determine if the pathogen is on the [Pathogens of Special Interest List](#). If it is, it would require reporting to the organ procurement organization and the OPTN.

Next steps:

Staff will revise the draft policy language to clarify the reporting requirements for sick and non-sick lung recipients.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- August 27, 2024

## Attendance

- **Workgroup Members**
  - Dong Lee
  - Rachel Miller
  - Stephanie Pouch
  - Lara Danziger-Isakov
  - Anna Hughart-Smith
  - Kaitlyn Fitzgerald
  - Michael Ison
  - Stephen Gray
  - Anja DiCesaro
- **HRSA Representatives**
  - Jim Bowman
  - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
- **UNOS Staff**
  - Tamika Watkins
  - Cole Fox
  - Houlder Hudgins
  - Logan Saxer
  - Sandy Bartal
  - Sara Langham
  - Susan Tlusty
- **Other Attendees**