

OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee

Meeting Summary

December 19, 2024

Conference Call

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

Heather Bastardi, RN, MSN, CPNP, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee (the Committee) met via Cisco Webex teleconference on 12/19/2024 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Welcome and Updates
2. Board Update
3. Checklist Update
4. Closing Remarks

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

1. Welcome and Updates

OPTN Contractor staff welcomed the Committee and provided updates.

Summary of presentation:

Waitlist form field:

- NT Pro BNP text input field (on heart & heart-lung registration and justification within Risk Stratification Data section)
- Current range 0-40000 pg/mL
Updated range (requiring approval): 0-70000 pg/mL

Summary of discussion:

The Committee agreed to update the form fields to the proposed ranges:

- Updated range (requiring approval): 0-70000 pg/mL

The Chair supported the idea of widening the NT Pro BNP range. Highlighting that current narrow ranges often create issues because high BNP levels are often indicative of the need for a transplant. The Chair advocated for having a reasonable maximum range to prevent input errors, such as accidental entry of exaggerated values. The Chair concluded that expanding the range would be beneficial and asked others for potential concerns. The Co-Chair agreed and noted that BNP values at their hospital are sometimes very high, exceeding the current range. The Co-Chair highlighted the proposed upper limit of 70,000, mentioning it seemed high but realistic given clinical scenarios. Emphasizing that values above 10,000 are already significant, but an expanded range might reflect an observed increase in patient levels.

Next steps:

OPTN Contractor staff will pass along feedback to OPTN Systems operating team.

2. Board Update

OPTN Contractor staff updated the Committee on the Board.

Summary of presentation:

The meeting marked the final session for the current UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) Board of Directors before transitioning to a new external board appointed by HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration).

Summary of discussion:

The Chair highlighted the contentious nature of the transition, particularly HRSA's decision to exclude individuals who served on the UNOS board in the past decade or are current members. The Chair urged committee members to stay informed and provide constructive feedback during the transition process. The Committee discussed the importance of advocating for representation from individuals with direct transplant experience on the new board. Members agreed on the importance of staying informed and engaged as the transition unfolds.

Next steps:

None identified at this time.

3. Checklist Update

OPTN Contractor staff provided an update of the Operations Standardization Checklist.

Summary of presentation:

Next steps:

- Alignment with Data Advisory Committee- develop process for greater collaboration with DAC
- Get feedback from TAC, DAC, and MPSC on Checklist.

Summary of discussion:

Members agreed on the need to gather broader feedback from centers not represented on the committee, including those with limited resources or unique challenges. Some suggested focus groups or surveys to collect additional insights. One member recommended developing comprehensive training resources, such as webinars, templates, and FAQs, to support implementation. Overall, the members advised of strong support for a phased implementation plan, starting with voluntary adoption and allowing time for adjustments based on feedback.

Next steps:

None identified at this time.

4. Closing Remarks

OPTN Contractor staff advised that the next meeting will be virtual, and that staff will provide updates regarding an in-person meeting when they come.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 16, 2025

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Amy Olsen
 - Brandy Baldwin
 - Courtney Risley
 - Stacy McKean
 - Gertrude Okelezo
 - Heather Bastardi
 - Christine Brenner
 - Katherine Meneses
 - Kati Robinson
 - Kenny Laferriere
 - Stewart Jusim
 - Karl Neumann
 - Whitney Holland
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Cole Fox
 - Stryker-Ann Vosteen
 - Viktoria Filatova
 - Ross Walton
 - Laura Schmitt