

OPTN/UNOS Kidney Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
February 23, 2015
Conference Call

Richard Formica, MD, Chair
Mark Aeder, MD, Vice-Chair

Discussions of the full committee on February 23, 2015 are summarized below and will be reflected in the committee's next report to the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors. Meeting summaries and reports to the Board are available at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

1. HOPE Act

The Committee was generally supportive of this proposal and expressed interested in reviewing data going forward on how many HIV positive candidates opt in to the research protocol and receive a kidney from an HIV positive donor. There was some speculation among the committee that such a number may be low, since HIV positive candidates also have the option of receiving kidney offers from donors without HIV. Because of this point, the Committee agreed with the approach to create an open variance to operationalize the new policy.

There was some discussion among the Committee about patient safety and whether expected changes would introduce an increased risk of transplanting an HIV positive organ into a candidate who does not have HIV. For these reasons, the Committee strongly supported the requirement to have two individuals confirm (as a "safety check") that the candidate opted in to the variance. However, there was some concern about how the requirement that the candidate appear on the match run would affect directed donation. The Committee requested that the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee explore expanding the policy variance to alleviate some of the logistical issues that would impede direct donations for HIV positive candidates. There were two suggestions for this:

- Allow for different rules around blood type compatibility and permissibility than what the deceased donor kidney allocation policy has historically specified.
- Allow OPOs to re-run the match in this instance so that the candidate would appear on the match run.

The Committee also weighed in on the OPO Committee's request for feedback on whether it was appropriate to allow HIV positive living donors to donate to HIV positive candidates. The majority of the Committee members were of the opinion that the variance should not preclude the possibility of living donor transplants between HIV positive donor and recipients. There were a couple of members who expressed concern about the risk of ESRD for the living donor. However, the fact that the policy would require the local IRB to approve the transplant program's protocol was seen as a safety check and alleviated this concern for the majority of the committee.

2. Pediatric Bylaws

The Committee generally supported this proposal, indicating appreciation for the incorporation of a conditional pathway and delayed implementation of the proposal. Still, several regional representatives on the committee were concerned about pockets of the country where gaps in access to transplant for pediatric transplants would appear, should the proposal be approved. The Kidney Committee requested that the Pediatric Committee examine geographic gaps in greater depth before moving forward with the proposal so as to ensure that pediatric kidney patients would have adequate support and access to transplants.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 18, 2015
- June 15, 2015