

**OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC)
Meeting Summary
August 1, 2014
1-2 pm EST, Conference Call**

**Yolanda Becker, MD, Chair
Sue Dunn, RN, BSN, MBA, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on August 1, 2014 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>.

Committee Projects

1. Multi-organ Policies Clean-up Public Comment Proposal

This project is slated to go out for public comment this fall 2014. This project addresses the general multi-organ policies and makes improvements to the policy language to enhance clarity and organization. This proposal does not address the more complicated issues surrounding multi-organ allocation, which is being addressed by the organ-specific Committees. The Committee reviewed and voted on the final policy language for the proposal.

Summary of discussion

The Multi-organ Policies Work Group Chair, Mark Aeder, along with POC Chair Yolanda Becker presented the Work Group's proposed language. The Committee reviewed the language and a short discussion followed, but there were no concerns or questions expressed. The Committee voted on the proposed language and unanimously approved the language (14-0) for public comment as shown below:

POC Multi-Organ Work Group Proposed Policy Language

Policy Language Change

2.12.F ~~Multiple Start Time for~~ Organ Procurement

~~After a member indicates its initial acceptance of an organs~~ have been offered and accepted, ~~the transplant hospitals and OPOs involved~~ recovery teams must agree on the time ~~the that~~ multiple organ procurement will begin. If ~~the members~~ they cannot agree on the ~~procurement~~ start time for the procurement, the host OPO has the authority to ~~may~~ withdraw the offer from the transplant hospital ~~or OPO that cannot~~ unable to agree on the start time for procurement. ~~to begin.~~

5.4.D: Multiple Organ Procurement and Offers

~~If an OPO has permission to procure all organs from a deceased donor, that OPO must offer those organs unless, in the OPO's medical judgment, the organs are not suitable for transplant.~~

Policy Language Change

- ~~After the organs have been accepted, all receiving transplant hospitals must agree on when the multiple organ procurement will begin. If they cannot agree on a start time for the procurement, the host OPO may withdraw the offer from the transplant hospitals that accepted the organs.~~

3.4.C Candidate Registrations

Transplant programs must do *all* of the following:

1. Register on the waiting list all candidates for deceased donor organ transplants, including candidates receiving directed donations from deceased donors.
2. Register all multi-organ candidates on the waiting list for each required organ.
3. Complete all candidate additions, modifications, and removals in the waiting list.

~~3.4.F Multi-organ Candidate Registrations~~

~~If a multi-organ transplant candidate requires a heart, lung, or liver the candidate must register on the waiting list separately for each required organ.~~

~~Multi-organ candidates who have been named as the recipient of a directed organ donation must appear on at least one of the deceased donor's match runs for at least one of the required organ types.~~

Policy 5.8: Allocation of Multi-Organ Combinations

~~Candidates registered for multiple organs must appear on the heart, lung, or liver match run to be eligible to receive a heart, lung, or liver.~~

5.8.A Allocation of Heart-Lungs

Heart-lung combinations are allocated according to *Policy 6.5.E: Allocation of Heart-Lungs.*

5.8.B Other Multi-Organ Combinations

When multi-organ candidates ~~other than heart-lung candidates~~ are registered on the ~~eligible to receive a heart, lung, or liver~~ waiting list, the second required organ will be allocated to the multi-organ candidate from the same donor if the donor's DSA is the same DSA where the multi-organ candidate is registered. ~~Heart-lung combinations are allocated according to *Policy 6.5.E: Allocation of Heart-Lungs.*~~

If the multi-organ candidate is on a waiting list outside the donor's DSA, it is permissible to allocate the ~~voluntary sharing of the second organ to the multi-organ candidate is receiving the first organ.~~ recommended. ~~When the second organ is shared, the same organ of an identical blood type must be paid back to the host OPO from the next acceptable donor procured by the recipient OPO, unless the second organ is a kidney. If the second organ is a kidney, then there is no payback obligation.~~

Policy 3.7.C6.4.A: Waiting Time Modifications for Heart, Lung, and Heart-Lung Candidates

A transplant program may request that the OPTN Contractor modify a candidate's waiting time when a candidate has multiple registrations ~~qualifies to receive waiting time accrued~~

Policy Language Change

~~from one waiting list to another waiting list~~ according to *Table 6-4 3-6* below.

Table 6-4-3-6: Waiting Time Modifications for Heart, Lung, and Heart-Lung Candidates

From this registration:	To this registration:
Heart	Lung
Heart	Heart-lung
Lung	Heart
Lung	Heart-lung
Heart-lung	Heart
Heart-lung	Lung

Next steps

- This proposal will be considered for fall 2014 public comment by the POC and then the Executive Committee along with other Committee proposals.

2. OPTN Policy Rewrite Parking Lot “Quick Fixes” Public Comment Proposal

This proposal is slated to go out for public comment this fall 2014 and addresses some of the easy fixes of issues identified during the OPTN policy plain language rewrite. These simple changes are substantive enough that they require public comment but were not deemed controversial or requiring huge changes to member requirements.

Summary of discussion

The POC Chair presented an overview of the project proposal and reiterated the goals of the project. The proposed “quick fixes” were reviewed by the other OPTN committees and any comments or concerns that were still outstanding were presented to the POC for discussion.

In particular, deceased donor requirements in Policy 2.11 had several comments from reviewers. Since some of these issues were controversial, the POC decided to eliminate those proposed changes from the policy proposal. This included eliminating 2.11.D changes entirely from the proposal.

Additional suggestions that were not part of the rewrite parking lot were forwarded to the appropriate Committee so that they could address them. A POC member was also interested in finding out how many times Policy 3.6.B.i has been used to reinstate kidney waiting time. Although this does not concern the “quick fix” proposal, the POC research liaison is looking into providing that information for the Committee.

The Committee voted on the proposed language and unanimously approved the language 14-0 for public comment, with the items discussed above deleted.

A Committee member also commented that because there’s no real consensus on who to list, do you think that looking at the liver alone or that looking at patients on dialysis who got a liver alone would be a good group to look at? The average waiting time to

listing to receiving a kidney after a liver, is significantly shorter. POC Chair commented that the kidneys that are left over for kidney patients have a higher KDPI and that is a problem. The priority of the Kidney and Liver Committees should be to come up with the criteria of who should be listed for a liver-kidney. We have no listing criteria; we agree that we shouldn't be putting in kidneys if they don't need them. Looking at patients, SRTR- HRSA is very supportive of us starting to report on the multi-organ transplants; SLK and H-K are the most performed. They're working with HRSA on creating some initial outcome measures.

Other Significant Items

3. Review of the POC's timeline of tasks and meetings for the year

POC Chair presented an overview of the Committee's schedule of meetings and tasks for the next term year. The Committee briefly discussed scheduling and how the Committee will use its monthly conference calls to conduct POC business.

4. Upcoming review of Committees' fall 2014 public comment proposals to make recommendations to the Executive Committee

Policy Director James Alcorn gave a short presentation on the POC's task to review public comment proposal to make recommendation to the Executive Committee. The POC is holding a full Committee conference call on September 12, 2014 to review Committees' public comment proposals to make recommendations to the Executive Committee about whether proposals meet OPTN/UNOS standards for policy development and should be approved for public comment.

The presentation included the following information:

Timeline

- Due Aug 15
- Sept 8: go to POC
- Sept 12: POC votes on proposals
- Sept 15: ExCom votes
- Public Comment: Sept 26 – Dec 5

POC members completed a survey that asks questions regarding each proposal.

- The results of the survey will be discussed by the POC.
- The survey results will be used to create a consent agenda and a discussion agenda for that discussion.
- The consent agenda will include proposals that clearly had support from all the POC members who completed the survey.
- The discussion items will be those where the POC members had questions or concerns that need to be discussed today.

POC will then make a *recommendation* to the Executive Committee regarding whether the proposal should be released for public comment. The Executive Committee then makes a *decision* about whether to release the proposal for public comment. Their decision should take into consideration:

- the POC's recommendation about whether the proposal is well formulated,
- the available resources to implement the proposed solutions (there's no reason to go to public comment if we're not able to implement the solution), and
- whether they support the proposed solution (they usually give considerable deference to the sponsoring committees but the Executive Committee can intervene when they disagree with the proposed solution).

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm CST.

Upcoming Meetings

- September 12, 2014, Conference Call
- October 20-21, 2014, Chicago, IL