

**OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Report to the Board of Directors
November 12-13, 2014
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Jorge Reyes, MD, Chair
Susan Gunderson, MHA, Vice Chair**

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This report reflects the work of the OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc International Relations Committee during the period of June to October 2014

Action Items

None

Committee Projects

1. Define Exhausting the Match Run

Public Comment: January 2016

Board Review: June 2016

OPTN/UNOS policy currently states that members may export deceased donor organs to hospitals in foreign countries only after offering the organs to all potential recipients on the match run. Members must submit the *Organ Export Verification Form* to the OPTN Contractor prior to exporting deceased donor organs. The joint subcommittee is tasked with defining the level of effort an OPO must expend in making organ offers to all nationally listed patients in the US before offering an organ outside of the US for transplant. The subcommittee is studying the issue to propose solutions to assist the transplant community in identifying the specific circumstances which must be present to indicate that allocation cannot be completed in the US and organs can be offered outside of the US. The goal is to recognize organs as a national resource and prevent organ wastage under defined circumstances.

The IRC joint subcommittee met in February 2014 and reviewed data on the number and types of organs exported out of the US since 2010. During discussion, the subcommittee narrowed the problem statement to the concern that literal interpretation of the policy is cumbersome and time-consuming, potentially leading to organ discard and wastage. The subcommittee requested data in an attempt to identify some array of *where* in the match sequence placement efforts would be futile. The data request will examine at what point on the match, are organs rarely, if ever, accepted by a US transplant program and for those organs that were exported, how far down the match offers were documented.

Committee leadership reviewed the data in June 2014 and requested additional information that will be reviewed by the subcommittee to determine a path forward.

2. Review Deceased Donor Import Policy

Public Comment: August 2015

Board Review: November 2015

A subcommittee has been working on reviewing the deceased donor import policy. The subcommittee has reviewed both the formal and ad hoc organ import exchanges and the process the UNOS Organ Center uses to place imported organs recovered outside of the US under an ad hoc organ exchange. The full committee has been updated on internal discussions underway at UNOS to help clarify whether the OPTN should continue to facilitate these foreign placements (with the process codified in policy as an OPTN function). The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors endorsed the path forward to document OPTN function in policy and clarifying its role with regard to foreign import placements and address existing gaps in the import policy.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

None

Implemented Committee Projects

None

Review of Public Comment Proposals

None

Meeting Summaries

The Committee did not meet during this reporting cycle.

Previous meetings summaries for this Committee are available on the OPTN website at: <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/converge/members/committeesDetail.asp?ID=6>.