

**OPTN/UNOS Ethics Committee
Meeting Summary
September 15, 2014
Chicago, IL**

**Peter Reese, MD, Chair
Elisa Gordon, PhD, MPH, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full Committee on September 15, 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 on at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

Committee Projects

1. General Principles of Pediatric Allocation

The Ethics Committee contributed to the General Principles of Pediatric Allocation project. The project is an update to the OPTN's Principles of Organ Allocation, which the Ethics Committee has updated over several years, with a specific focus on pediatric allocation. The Ethics Committee provided the Pediatric Committee with the framework and background of these principles.

2. Imminent Death Donation

The Committee has discussed imminent death donation (IDD) during previous meetings and the Chair of the Committee has presented this topic to the Living Donor Committee. Imminent death donation involves the removal of transplantable organs prior to an imminent, planned withdraw of support expected to result in death and is a donation alternative to donation after cardiac death for patients who are not brain dead.

The Committee has a Board approved project to address the *Ethical Considerations of Imminent Death Donation*. Under this project, the Committee is leading a work group with representatives from the OPO, Living Donor, and Operations and Safety Committees to investigate the ethical issues involved in surrogate consent of living donors. This work group held its first meeting on August 14, 2014, and the meeting included representatives from each of the three other committees.

During the meeting, work group members were unable to reach consensus regarding if IDD could be appropriate under any circumstance. Work group members were asked to discuss IDD to gauge the opinions of their committees on this subject during their fall meetings. The work group will meet again in the near future.

3. Review White Papers for Accuracy and Relevancy

The Committee has developed a series of white papers on bioethical issues that are available on the OPTN website. Some of the topics addressed in the white papers include:

- An Evaluation of the Ethics of Informed Consent
- Financial Incentives for Organ Donation

- The Ethics of Organ Donation from Condemned Prisoners

These resources have not been regularly reviewed to ensure they remain accurate and relevant. In response, the Committee has a Board approved project to Review White Papers for Accuracy and Relevancy.

The Ethics Committee will begin to hold a monthly recurring web conferences to address this project. The Committee is planning to ask the Board to consider some of the revised white papers in June 2015.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. The Committee had preliminary discussions regarding two proposals scheduled for the fall 2015 public comment cycle.

- Proposal to Address the Requirements Outlined in the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (Organ Procurement Organization Committee)
- Implementation of the OPTN's Oversight of Vascularized Composite Allografts (Vascularized Composite Allograft Committee)

Other Significant Items

5. The Committee discussed several potential new areas of work including:

- Consider if living donor recovery hospitals should be responsible to provide care for post-operative complications
- Explore financial incentives or the removal of disincentives for organ

Upcoming Meeting

- April 13, 2015 – Full Committee Meeting