OPTN/UNOS Ethics Committee
Meeting Summary
December 17, 2015
Conference Call

Peter Reese, Chair
Elisa Gordon, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on December 17, 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.

Committee Projects

1. **Ethical Consideration of Imminent Death Donation (IDD)**

   Dr Reese opened the meeting and provided an update on the December Board meeting. He explained that Board leadership took the IDD presentation off the agenda without a formal explanation. In response the OPTN/UNOS Ethics Committee (Committee) will seek additional feedback regarding the IDD report from additional stakeholders, which could be reported to the Board in the future. The additional stakeholders are the Membership and Professional Standards Committee, Transplant Administrators Committee, Transplant Coordinators Committee, Kidney Transplantation Committee, Patient Affairs Committee, and the Minority Affairs Committee. A memorandum was sent to all the stakeholder committees represented on the IDD work, including the six additional committees, requesting specific feedback no later than February 29, 2016. Dr. Reese will contact the Chairs of the Operations and Safety and OPO Committees to make a personal appeal for a response from those Committees. The goal is to have all the responses ready for consideration when the Committee meets on March 14, 2016.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. **None**

Implemented Committee Projects

3. **None**

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. **None**

Other Significant Items

5. **Board approved resolution.**

   Dr. Reese shared that the Board approved a resolution to require the Membership and Professional Standards Committee to reconsider how centers are graded for their outcomes, because the current system of review may negatively impact access and cause centers to avoid using marginal organs. Dr. Reese commented that the Committee should be involved in this effort to improve access to transplants to help as many people as possible. To start, the Committee will review and provide comment on the SLK proposal being finalized for the January, 2016 public comment cycle.

6. **Ethical principles to be considered in the allocation of multi-organ transplants.**

   The Committee discussed plans for a proposed project to examine the ethical principles that should be considered in the allocation of multi-organ transplants. The OPO Committee is leading a project to examine all aspects of multi-organ transplant. The OPO Regional Representatives have commented that they want guidance or clear rules regarding how to allocate for multi-organ transplants. The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) identified the clarification of rules for multi-organ allocation as a priority project. The Committee previously responded to POC questions regarding multi-organ allocation in 2012 (although the response primarily addressed pediatric allocation). Dr. Reese explained that the rules regarding how organs for multi-organ transplant are allocated are unclear.

   Dr. Reese explained that under the current system, candidates for a liver transplant may also receive a kidney transplant when it is unclear that the kidney transplant is needed. A simultaneous liver/kidney transplant policy proposals will be distributed for public comment in January, 2016.

   The Committee agreed that it would be impossible to address all possible multi-organ allocation scenarios in a guidance resource or in any future policy. The Committee supported using a case study approach and providing the ethical principles to consider in certain scenarios that could be used as a guide for other scenarios not specifically addressed in the guidance resource or in future policy.

   The Committee discussed that it will be necessary to consider equity and utility. From the equity perspective, a candidate requiring a multi-organ transplant is very disadvantaged, but from a utility perspective a multi-organ candidate is a higher risk candidate with a shorter life expectancy. A member commented that multi-organ candidates should not have priority over children.

   Dr. Waz shared that he will be serving on the AOPO Ethics Committee and will investigate their concerns regarding multi-organ allocation and report back to the Committee.

7. **Current White Papers under revision.**

   Dr. Reese led a discussion of the status of the white papers under revision. The Split Liver and Ethics of Presumed Consent paper are being finalized and should be ready for Board consideration in June 2016.

   The group supported delaying work on the three remaining white papers in favor of work on the ethical considerations of multi-organ allocation.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 21, 2016
- February 18, 2016
- March 14, 2016, Chicago, IL
- April, 21, 2016
- May 19, 2016
- June 16, 2016