

OPTN/UNOS Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)
Meeting Summary
December 8, 2015
Conference Call

Jonathan M. Chen, M.D., Chair
Jeffrey Orlowski, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on December 8, 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. Transplant Program Performance Measures Review (Outcome Measures Work Group)

An update on the progress of the work group was provided to the Committee. At its October meeting, the Committee requested additional data analysis from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) regarding the effect of the proposed change on the programs flagged. In addition, the Committee requested that the work group reconsider whether recipient characteristics should be included in the criteria, whether informed consent should be required, and what provision should be made to protect patient safety in the high risk transplants. At its meeting in November, the work group continued to support excluding recipient characteristics from the criteria and supported the inclusion of a separate review of high risk transplant patients alone if the program falls outside the threshold for all transplants. Per OPTN leadership's request, the Committee will give an update and request input on this project during the Spring 2016 regional meetings and at the June 2016 OPTN Board of Directors meeting. The Committee was asked whether there were any specific questions that should be included in the spring 2016 update. A committee member suggested that input be requested on whether recipient characteristics should be included with a specific question regarding the use of Estimated Post-Transplant Survival (EPTS) score. Following consideration of the input received in the spring, the Committee plans to release a proposal for public comment in the summer 2016 and forward it to the Board of Directors in December 2016.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. Addressing the Term "Foreign Equivalent" in OPTN/UNOS Bylaws

The Chair informed the Committee that the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors adopted the MPSC proposal to address the term "foreign equivalent" in OPTN/UNOS Bylaws, which the committee had distributed for public comment earlier in the year. These new Bylaws will require changes to transplant hospital application forms, which necessitates Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval. These Bylaws changes will be implemented shortly after UNOS receives OMB approval, and upon notice to the membership.

3. Changes to Transplant Program Key Personnel Procurement Requirements

At its December 2015 meeting, the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors also adopted the MPSC proposal recommending changes to transplant program key personnel

procurement requirements. The Committee distributed this proposal earlier in the year. These new Bylaws will require changes to transplant hospital application forms, which necessitates Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval. These Bylaws changes will be implemented shortly after UNOS receives OMB approval, and upon notice to the membership.

4. Remove Reference to Time Frames from Bylaws regarding Inactivation after Conditional Approval

At its December 2015 meeting, the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors also adopted clarifications to Bylaws regarding program inactivation after a period of conditional approval. The MPSC considered and voted to send these Bylaws clarifications to the Board during its October 2015 meeting. These Bylaws clarifications are slated to be implemented on March 1, 2016.

Implemented Committee Projects

None

Review of Public Comment Proposals

None

Other Significant Items

5. Local Backup

UNOS staff provided a brief update on the local backup work group's recent teleconferences. These teleconferences primarily focused on establishing a problem statement, and discussing possible data that would be helpful for exploring this problem further. The problem statement drafted by the group was displayed for the Committee to review, and is as follows:

“Local backup” is a term commonly used in organ allocation in determining placement of an organ should the primary intended recipient not be transplanted with this organ. Local backup may be applied when a center accepts an imported, recovered organ; however, this term is not found in OPTN Policy or Bylaws. MPSC allocation reviews indicate different interpretations of this term and variation in how organs are reallocated once declined by the primary recipient. As an example, “local backup” is sometimes interpreted as allowing the transplant hospital to reallocate the organ to another recipient within the same hospital. In other cases, the organ is allocated via a match run in the donation service area of the primary intended recipient and, potentially, allocated to a recipient at a different hospital. Local backup definitions vary by length of travel, organ type, and OPO practice. Inconsistent definitions for allocating organs via local backup may undermine equitable organ allocation, and is likely to be an increasing concern as a result of recent policy changes that facilitate broader allocation.

This update concluded with a review of the planned next steps. The work group will reconvene once the data it requested has been compiled. Additionally, the work group would eventually like to reach out to each organ specific committee to get more in depth perspectives on local back up as it pertains to their organ of focus.

6. Membership Standards for Organ Perfusion Companies

UNOS staff informed the MPSC that its feedback and guidance was needed on questions pertaining to membership standards for organ perfusion companies. As this is a membership issue, the MPSC is the committee that would need to sponsor these efforts. The MPSC received a presentation that provided an introduction and background on this topic, including a review of multiple discussions already had by UNOS, HRSA, and a group of transplant professionals that was convened to make recommendations on this matter. Upon the conclusion of this presentation, the MPSC chair noted that numerous membership topics remained to be discussed on this call and time was limited. As such, he opted to table the MPSC's discussion of this matter until the next MPSC meeting. To conclude the discussion of this topic, the Chair requested committee members to review the materials provided and continue pondering on this issue until the Committee's next discussion.

7. Member Related Actions

The Committee is charged with determining whether member clinical transplant programs, organ procurement organizations, histocompatibility laboratories, and non-institutional members meet and remain in compliance with membership criteria. During each meeting, it considers actions regarding the status of current members and new applicants. The Committee reviewed the applications listed below and recommend that the Board of Directors take the following actions:

New Members

- Fully approve 1 new histocompatibility Laboratory
- Fully approve 1 medical/scientific organization

8. Update on Members under monitoring

During the meeting, the Committee received updates on new actions approved by the Board, an update on a member currently on Probation, and approved the corrective action plan for a Member Not in Good Standing. The Committee is not recommending any further action to the Board for any of these issues.

9. Expedited Threat Review Committee:

The Committee convened as an Expedited Threat Review Committee and discussed ongoing compliance issues involving an OPTN member. During the discussion, the MPSC Chair and leadership determined that the issue should be reviewed under the Imminent Threat pathway, and the MPSC convened as the Imminent Threat Review Committee to confirm the pathway and recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- February 2, 2016, Conference Call
- March 15-17, 2016, Chicago
- July 12-14, 2016, Chicago
- October 25-27, 2016, Chicago