

**OPTN/UNOS Operations and Safety Committee
Meeting Summary
September 22, 2015
Conference Call**

**Theresa Daly, Chair
David Marshman, Vice Chair**

Discussions of the full committee on September 22, 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. Standardize coding system for organ tracking (AKA Electronic Tracking and Transport Project or TransNet)

Members were briefed on the status of TransNet project and specifically that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) contract modification to the OPTN providing dedicated funding to support TransNet ended on September 30, 2015. A list of functionality that is planned and can likely be completed with unspent remaining funds was reviewed with the Committee. This list had been previously reviewed with the TransNet work group. The OSC agreed with the work group recommendations that the list as presented will provide functionality for OPO usage as well as basic transplant program usage. The OSC will vote on sponsoring a public comment proposal for the January 2016 cycle that would mandate OPO usage. It was discussed that the list that could be covered under unspent dedicated funding would provide all functionality needed to support mandatory OPO usage.

An additional separate list was also presented. This list contains other functionalities identified as desired. Programming on this list will need to be approved and prioritized according to the standard OPTN information technology programming process. The OSC discussed giving the highest priority to programming that will eliminate having to have two different processes (e.g. deceased versus living donation packaging and labeling). OSC members requested estimates for level of effort to assist in prioritization. This prioritization will be discussed and finalized at the October 13th in-person meeting.

The Operations and Safety Committee will request that this additional programming be approved for incorporation in the OPTN IT road map at the December 2015 OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors meeting.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. Clarify requirements for blood type verification

Members were informed of the Executive Committee approval to change the policy implementation date from February 1, 2016 to effective pending programming and notification to the membership. This request was made because it became the UNOS Information Technology department estimated that they could complete programming associated with the proposal by early 2nd quarter 2016. While the programming is not necessary to implement the policy, the programming enhancements will assist members with compliance. There are four regional meetings left and the Committee update has been modified to reflect the change in the implementation date.

Additional volunteers were requested to serve on the ABO implementation subcommittee. It was announced that the first webinar will be held on December 8th to help members prepare for the upcoming policy changes. Volunteers are needed to prepare and review educational materials.

3. Improvements to Vessel Disposition Reporting

Programming for electronic reporting of vessels disposition in UNet will be released on October 22, 2015. Policy approved in November 2012 by the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors will go into effect that date to require transplant hospitals to report extra vessels use disposition within seven days of use or destruction. UNOS Instructional Innovations will release a training video on October 8, 2015.

It was clarified that the current vessels use report in Waitlist will go away with this implementation. These data are candidate based. It was shared that upon wait list removal that a correct indication of whether vessels were used as opposed to unknown will help keep transplant extra vessels data more up to date. It is not required, however, to go in and update existing candidates with an "unknown" vessel use status. The new system will be based on the donorID of the vessels.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. Proposal to Reduce the Documentation Shipped with Organs (OPO Committee)

The OPO Committee has proposed limiting paper documentation shipped with organs. The documentation would be limited to ABO determination and infectious disease testing results. Current policy requires the entire paper chart to be shipped with all organs. This has been identified as a process that is cumbersome and time consuming taking away from other pertinent donor management responsibilities.

The Operations and Safety Committee supports the concept behind this proposal. Several committee members did mention issues that must be addressed or else concerns may outweigh the benefits. Members requested that parameters around record permanency, record completion and record deletions/modifications need to be further defined. Members want assurance that the results/notes/records uploaded to DonorNet will serve as a permanent record that can be accessed without concern of a time limitations. Transplant program representatives do not want the responsibility to have to go back and download records from DonorNet to meet record retention standards. It was noted that the Final Rule addresses documentation time requirements and that this policy proposal needs to be congruent if applicable. Other questions related to timing of the availability of the complete record and the definition of a complete record were also discussed. The Operations and Safety Committee desires to see these questions answered as the current system is inefficient and does not promote best use of resources.

Other Significant Items

5. Imminent Death Donation Work Group

Operations and Safety is one of several Committees represented on a multi-Committee work group being led by the Ethics Committee regarding Imminent Death Donation (IDD). IDD refers to the recovery of a living donor organ immediately prior to an impending and planned withdrawal of support expecting to result in a patient's death.

The chair reviewed the IDD comments. IDD is a situation where a potential donor has experienced devastating neurological injury and requires a surrogate for decision-

making. The intent is to explore this is an organ donation option in cases where a potential donor may not be considered a Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD) candidate because either the potential donor isn't expected to expire within the required DCD time limits; other medical considerations of the donor would make placement of organs after DCD unlikely; or the potential donor's surrogate wants to pursue donation, but declines or objects to the DCD process.

Members received a copy of a draft report that will go before the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors at their December 2015 meeting. The Ethics Committee will be seeking guidance from the Board on next steps. OSC members did not have specific comments during the call but were urged to send comments via email. Several OSC members volunteered to replace previous representatives that have now rolled off the committee. OSC representatives will continue assisting with drafting the report and will seek full committee input prior to completion of the final version.

6. OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan Goal #1: Increase the Number of Transplants

Members were briefed on committee activities to brainstorm on ways to support OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan Goal #1 (Increase the Number of Transplants). All committees are participating in a brainstorming exercise. OSC members will receive a form to submit their ideas. The OSC brainstorming session will take place at the in-person meeting on October 13, 2015. The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) met at the end of September. At this meeting, vice-chairs shared committee ideas from meetings that had already taken place. OSC members requested the list of ideas shared at the POC as they prepare their own thoughts for the upcoming brainstorming session.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 13, 2015 (In-person meeting)
- October 27, 2015 (Monthly teleconference)