

Pediatrics Transplantation Committee Meeting Summary
October 22, 2015
Chicago, IL

Eileen Brewer, M.D., Chair
William Mahle, M.D., Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on October 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. Establish Pediatric Training and Experience

In June 2015, the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors (Board) directed the Pediatrics Transplantation Committee (Committee) to amend a proposal to establish training and experience requirements for pediatric transplant programs in collaboration with stakeholders from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS). A working group developed modifications to the proposal, and the proposal went out for a second round of public comment from August 14, 2015 to October 14, 2015.

The Committee discussed the feedback received from the recent OPTN Regional Meetings and comments submitted on the OPTN website, including requests to:

- Implement an emergency exception for programs without pediatric components
- Create an elective tier for programs only performing adolescent transplants
- Reexamine how the proposal affects access to thoracic transplantation for adolescents
- Exclude adolescents from the pediatric requirements

Based on the feedback and comments, the Committee sought input during the meeting from representatives the thoracic transplantation community. A lengthy discussion was held on the proposal involving thoracic transplantation colleagues. Consensus was achieved to:

- Remove the proposed requirements for pediatric lung transplant primary physician and primary surgeon
- Add an exception pathway for adult transplant programs that wanted to transplant a pediatric heart 1A or liver 1A/1B candidate.

The Committee will meet by conference call on November 3, 2015 to consider proposed language and vote whether to send to the Board in December 2015.

Other Significant Items

2. Committee Research Orientation

Wida Cherikh (UNOS Research) and Jodi Smith (Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients – SRTR) provided an overview of the respective organization's support role to the Pediatrics Transplantation Committee.

3. PELD Exceptions

Evelyn Hsu and Manuel Rodriguez-Davalos presented an overview of PELD score exceptions, the frequency of use, and the approach used in other countries to prioritize pediatric liver transplant candidates.

4. Strategic Plan Update and Future Projects Brainstorming

The Committee held a brainstorming exercise to come up with potential future projects, with emphasis on those projects that contribute to Goal One of the OPTN Strategic Plan (Increasing Transplants). Based on break-out-session activity, the following were shared:

- Promote living donation (altruistic, living unrelated related, KPD).
- Tracking pediatric outcomes following transition to adult transplant programs
- Explore feasibility to link cloud-based storage of Echocardiograms to DonorNet®
- Evaluate organ turndown offers (more detailed refusal codes, report back to centers on turndown rates, develop a mentor-mentee relationship between centers that have low turndowns and centers with higher turndowns)
- Review Pediatric Liver Prioritization
- Encouraging use of higher risk donor organs (e.g. – ABO incompatible)

5. Policy Oversight Committee Update

William Mahle presented an update from the OPTN/UNOS Policy Oversight Committee (POC). This included a synopsis of creation of job descriptions for committee members, the project review process, and an update of post-public comment changes to the POC's proposal to extend the length of OPTN committee terms.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 18, 2015
- December 16, 2015
- January 20, 2016
- February 17, 2016
- March 16, 2016