

OPTN/UNOS Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
November 21, 2014
Conference Call

Joe Rogers, MD, Chair
Kevin Chan, MD, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on November 21, 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 at <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

The Thoracic Committee reviewed proposals distributed for public comment during the fall 2014 cycle most relevant to their work as professionals in thoracic transplantation or their work in the transplant community generally. The Thoracic Committee reviewed the following proposals:

1. Proposal to Clarify the Definition of Organ Transplant and Transplant Date
Policy Oversight Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and did not have any questions or concerns.

2. Proposal to Clarify the Definition of Organ Transplant and Transplant Date
Policy Oversight Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and did not have any questions or concerns.

3. Proposal to Allow Collective Patient and Wait Time Transfers
Operations and Safety Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and supports it. In response to the specific requests for comment, the Thoracic Committee believes the 90-day post-transfer report requirement is appropriate to encourage transplant hospitals to communicate with candidates about their status on the waiting list.

4. Definition of a Transplant Hospital
Membership and Professional Standards Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and supports it. They believe it makes sense and they understand why such a definition is necessary.

5. Establishing a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Requirement for Transplant Hospitals and Organ Procurement Organizations
Membership and Professional Standards Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and supports it. The Committee commented that the QAPI requirements should align with CMS requirements to the

extent possible so that transplant hospitals and OPOs do not have to adhere to separate quality standards and processes. The Thoracic Committee suggested explicitly including language in the policy that the OPTN requirements will not be duplicative of CMS requirements. The Thoracic Committee otherwise agrees that quality should be woven into transplant culture just as it is woven into other aspects of medical care.

6. Improving the OPTN Policy Development Process

Executive Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and supports it.

7. Implementing Pre-Transplant Performance Review by the Membership and Professional Standards Committee

Membership and Professional Standards Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and generally supports it. The Committee agrees it is reasonable to examine these metrics to ask questions about a program that is not transplanting at expected rates. The Committee is concerned about the punitive tone of the proposal and policy language and suggests that in the spirit of using these metrics as a tool to identify programs for process improvement, the language should reflect this purpose in a positive tone. The Committee is also concerned about the effect these metrics may have on a program's willingness to waitlist higher risk patients in the future. These metrics may deter innovative practices that require some risk if they are too restrictive. Finally, the Committee recommended that these metrics not be made public.

8. Addressing the Requirements Outlined in the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act

Organ Procurement Organization Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and did not have any questions or concerns. They noted it is the responsibility of the OPTN to establish necessary safeguards to prevent HIV positive organs from accidentally being transplanted into HIV recipients.

9. VCA Implementation

Vascularized Composite Allograft Transplantation Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and did not have any questions or concerns.

10. Policy Rewrite Parking Lot Quick Fixes

Policy Oversight Committee

The Thoracic Committee reviewed this proposal and did not have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 18, 2014