

OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC)
Meeting Summary
November 19, 2015
Chicago, IL

Jamie Bucio, EMT-P, CPTC, Chair
Sarah Nicholas, BSN, RN, CCTC, Vice Chair

Discussions of the full committee on November 19, 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. None

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. None

Implemented Committee Projects

3. None

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. None

Other Significant Items

5. **Implementation of HCC Cap and Delay**

Revisions to OPTN liver allocation policy were implemented on October 8, 2015, modifying the maximum value of exception scores for candidates with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and the timing of exception scores assigned to HCC candidates.

The revised policy, approved by the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors in November 2014, is intended to create a better balance in transplant opportunities between candidates with HCC exceptions and those with allocation priority based on their calculated MELD/PELD score. It will not change the data fields required to support the application for an exception score.

UNOS staff reviewed a report that is available in UNet that will help coordinators manage their exception extension applications. A demonstration and explanation of how to complete and run the report was provided.

6. **Committee Brainstorming Project Ideas Update**

The Committee dedicated time during its September in person meeting to brainstorm project ideas that meet the OPTN strategic goals. The top two ideas for increasing the number of transplants were DonorNet® Enhancements and Best Practices and Standardizing Reporting of Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) Data.

DonorNet Enhancements and Best Practices

The DonorNet enhancement and best practices idea incorporates several specific topics that are related to making improvements to DonorNet and making resources available to

assist members when using DonorNet. The main problem identified was the amount of time it takes to complete the organ allocation and acceptance process in DonorNet. The extended amount of time it takes to complete the process can lead to organ wastage. Identifying the barriers in place for organ allocation and placement can facilitate the process and increase the number of organs placed; therefore, ideally resulting in more organs transplanted. The Committee submitted several DonorNet enhancement suggestions to UNOS staff and the IT Customer Council for review and consideration.

During this call, UNOS staff reviewed the mission and the charter of the IT Customer Council and explained what will happen with the feedback the Committee provided.

Based on the TCC and other OPTN member suggestions, UNOS staff drafted a DonorNet enhancement list. The IT Customer Council discussed this list, at the December OPTN/UNOS Board meeting, it was also discussed with a small group comprised of Board members and OPTN/UNOS Committee chairs. Next steps are for the IT Customer Council to review and prioritize these suggestions and begin working to implement the top priority items. UNOS staff encouraged the TCC to continue to provide feedback on DonorNet enhancements and agreed to present progress updates during the Committee's monthly meetings.

UNOS Instructional Innovations department is working on a UNetSM core curriculum update that will move all the UNet curriculum learning paths to the UNOS Learning Management System (LMS). There will be several DonorNet elements included in this update and will be available to members within the next year. The TCC will be asked to provide feedback on how the DonorNet curriculum should be organized.

Standardizing DCD Data

The idea to develop a standardized form for DCD data was discussed as DCD data collection is different for each OPO. Time is wasted by the transplant center when staff has to search for information and missing data. There needs to be a standardized form with key data points that the transplant center can use to determine acceptance. A standard form can expedite placement of organs when pertinent information is consistently documented and available.

Instructional Innovations staff updated the Committee on their initiatives to share DCD effective practices.

A work group call is scheduled for December to further discuss the details of this idea and to gain perspective on what is needed by members.

7. TCC Best Practices Discussions

During its September in-person meeting, the Committee decided it would like to dedicate 15 minutes during the monthly full committee calls to having a committee member present an OPO or transplant center best practice. Mindy Zoll, ADN, CPTC, provided the first presentation on Lifeline Ohio's DCD best practices.

Upcoming Meeting

- January 19, 2016 (conference call)