

OPTN/UNOS VCA Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
October 28, 2015
Chicago, IL

Sue V. McDiarmid, M.D., Chair
L. Scott Levin, M.D., FACS, Vice-Chair

Discussions of the full committee on October 28, 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. Survey to Identify Barriers to VCA Authorization and Recovery

During the September 22, 2015 Committee call, a working group was formed to draft a survey to identify actual or perceived barriers to VCA authorization and recovery. The working group met by conference call on October 9, 2015. Rich Luskin (Working Group Chair) reported back to the Committee during the meeting on the group's efforts to-date. The Committee discussed the draft survey and unanimously approved hand-off to UNOS. UNOS staff will update the Committee on the status of the survey project during future conference calls. The target for survey deployment is January 2016, with analysis and final report to the Committee in March/April 2016.

2. List Covered Body Parts Pertaining to VCA

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Division of Transplantation previously notified the VCA Committee of an inconsistency between the OPTN Final Rule, and OPTN Policies and Bylaws. Specifically, the [OPTN Final Rule](#) (CFR §121.4(e)(3)) requires the OPTN to implement policies and shall identify all covered body parts in any policies specific to VCAs defined in §121.2. The VCA Committee and representatives from HRSA held a lengthy discussion on the matter. The Committee created a draft list of covered body parts at the meeting. They will continue to discuss the list, along with related modifications to OPTN Policies and Bylaws, on the December 9, 2015 conference call. The list of covered body parts and related policy and bylaw changes is targeted for public comment in January 2016, and for Board consideration in June 2016.

Implemented Committee Projects

3. VCA Data Collection and Submission

Data collection on VCA transplant recipients was implemented on September 1, 2015. UNOS staff provided an update to the Committee on data collection efforts to-date, as well as a synopsis of VCA membership, candidate listing and transplant activity since July 3, 2014. The Committee will continue to monitor data on VCA transplant activity.

Other Significant Items

4. Committee Research Orientation

Wida Cherikh (UNOS Research) and Jessica Zeglin (Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients – SRTR) provided an overview of the respective organization's support role to the VCA Committee.

5. Policy Oversight Committee Update

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

6. Uterus Transplantation

The Committee held a lengthy discussion on the emerging area of uterus transplantation, and received a brief overview regarding the three hospitals in the U.S. that are considering uterus transplantation. The consensus of the Committee was there were many clinical and ethical considerations for future discussions. The Committee was interested in forming a working group with representatives of the OB/GYN and reproductive medicine communities to discuss these considerations.

7. VCA Education Resources

The Committee discussed a new educational resource produced by UNOS Instructional Innovations, [*VCA's Have Arrived*](#). UNOS partnered with W.P. Andrew Lee, M.D. (The Johns Hopkins Hospital) and Christopher Curran, CPTC, CTBS, CTOP (New England Organ Bank) to develop a short video in support of the September 1, 2015 effective date for VCA Implementation.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- December 9, 2015 (Conference Call)
- January 2016 (call TBD)
- February 2016 (call TBD)
- March 2016 (call TBD)
- April 2016 (Chicago, IL)
- May 2016 (call TBD)
- June 2016 (call TBD)