

OPTN/UNOS VCA Transplantation Committee
Meeting Summary
September 22, 2015
Conference Call

Sue V. McDiarmid, M.D., Chair
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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. Survey to Identify Barriers to VCA Authorization and Recovery

The Committee discussed beginning work on a project that was identified during discussions in April and June 2015. Based on advice from UNOS staff, a working group was formed to draft a survey for OPOs to identify barriers to VCA authorization and recovery. This working group will be chaired by Rich Luskin, and includes Monica James, Jim Rodrigue, and Debbie Williams (OPO Committee). Draft of survey questions will be shared with the Committee prior to the October 28th meeting. The survey will be further refined at this meeting, then generated by staff in the UNOS Research Department. The timeline for review of the survey results is late March/early April 2015.

Review of Public Comment Proposals

2. Reduce Documentation Shipped With Organs (OPO Committee)

The Committee members supported the intent of the proposal; to reduce the administrative burden of record duplication to on-site OPO coordinators, and to allow OPO coordinators more time at the bedside to manage donors. However, the Committee members noted that technological limitations in DonorNet[®] do not allow VCA transplant program staff to access a donor's electronic records. VCA transplant programs currently rely on faxed and emailed donor records, and verbal reports when considering VCA offers.

Based on the presentation, the Committee felt there needs to be consideration for circumstances present in VCA donation that are not present for other organs. This may be in the form of a policy exemption for VCA donors, and would require an OPO to provide a hard-copy of the complete donor record with a recovered VCA. There is precedent for the use of policy exemptions for VCAs with the earlier VCA Implementation proposal approved by the Board in June 2014, and again in June 2015. This exemption would need to remain in place until the time that VCAs are integrated into DonorNet[®].

Upcoming Meetings

- October 28, 2015 (Chicago, IL)
- December 2015 (TBD)