OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC)
Meeting Summary
May 17, 2016
Conference Call

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Discussions of the full committee on May 17, 2016 are summarized below. All committee meeting summaries are available at https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.

Committee Projects

1. **Effective Practices and Resources Project Idea**

   Since the September 2015 TCC meeting, the TCC has been featuring effective practice discussions on its monthly calls. Since the DonorNet issues the Committee originally wanted to address have been incorporated into the OPO System Optimization and Utilization work group, the TCC is proposing to expand its original effective practice idea to cover other topics than DonorNet and extend the effective practice discussions that occur on monthly calls to the broader community.

   The problem the Committee wishes to address is to increase the number of transplants by providing broader sharing of effective practices for OPOs and transplant centers. Sharing effective practices allows transplant professionals to learn strategies that are being used in the community to address common issues and barriers to transplant. These effective practices would seek to address processes that aid to mitigate waitlist mortality while increasing the number of transplant performed. Currently, the project is awaiting review and approval by the Director of Policy.

Committee Projects Pending Implementation

2. **None**

Implemented Committee Projects

3. **None**

Review of Public Comment Proposals

4. **None**

Other Significant Items

5. **Data Quality Improvement Opportunities Discussion**

   At its March meeting, UNOS Research and SRTR staff requested the TCC's feedback on ways to improve OPTN data integrity, timeliness of submission, and reliability of data. There is lack of trust in accuracy and completeness of OPTN data that is used for decision-making purposes. UNOS staff and SRTR staff are working on ways to address this issue. The Committee formed a work group to continue this discussion with research, SRTR, and the OPTN/UNOS Data Advisory Committee (DAC). A separate call occurred with members from the above-mentioned groups in April. Committee members had several questions and comments for UNOS staff and SRTR and requested that UNOS staff educate the Committee on reports and tools that are available. The

Committee also suggested sharing effective data quality practices with the transplant community.

6. **Donor Profile Pilot Project**

UNOS staff presented the Donor Profile project plan to the Committee to request feedback and ask for volunteers to participate in the project work group. The goal of this project is to allow more precise acceptance criteria, increase the number of transplants, decrease the time it takes to place organs, reduce unwanted offers, and speed up the evaluations of offers received. There was concern by committee members that asking centers to be more specific on their acceptance criteria might be an issue for fear they may lose the opportunity to review an offer. One suggestion made was to be able to have different categories for increased risk donors. Another suggestion was to be able to enter an actual distance instead of entering regional, local, or national into the system. This was noted because the actual distance might be the reason a center would accept or decline the offer. Several committee members volunteered to participate on the work group. Others stated they would ask individuals at their organizations to volunteer so the work group would be comprised of individuals that use DonorNet on a regular basis.

7. **Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update**

The Committee Vice-Chair reviewed the discussions that occurred on the May POC conference call. The POC reviewed and approved the following new projects:

- Guidance Regarding Organ Donation by Competent Terminally Ill Donors
- Honoring First Person Consent and Extending First Person Consent to Include DCD
- Review White Paper Addressing Financial Incentives for Organ Donation
- Repairing OPTN KPD Chains Kidney
- Allowing Deceased Donor Chains in the OPTN KPD Pilot Program

The project portfolio was also reviewed.

8. **System Optimization and Utilization Project Update (OPO Committee)**

The initial meeting, in March, was to define "inefficient placement" of organs, identify the reasons/causes that could lead to discards, determine if data is needed, and establish a path forward. The work group agreed that this project was extremely important and could encompass a large number of issues. They agreed to the following first steps:
- Establish a work group charge
- Clearly define "inefficient placement of organs"
- Compile a list of reasons/causes for inefficient organ allocation
- Categorize, then prioritize
- Review the entire process flow for organ allocation to identify failure points
- Set up standing monthly calls with the acknowledgement that more frequent calls might be necessary

The second meeting focused on drafting a definition and the original intent of the "provisional yes". The work group could not come to an agreement on these topics but these topics did start the discussion of tiered acceptance/status or additional statuses. The group agreed this might better define the transplant centers' intent. The group also noted that a lot of the problem is behavioral and the only way to change behavior would be with policy.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 21, 2016 (conference call)