

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations Committee

Meeting Summary

October 12, 2021

Conference Call

Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC, Chair

Pramod Bonde, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 10/12/2021 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Guidance Document Update
2. Open Forum

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions.

1. Guidance Document Update

The Committee reviewed public comments regarding their *Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Citizenship Status* document, and discussed post public comment changes.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee agreed to clarify the term "donor" throughout the guidance document to distinguish between living donors, deceased donors, or both.

The Committee agreed to clarify that, in addition to citizenship status, the Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR) and Living Donor Registration (LDR) forms collect country of permanent residency and year of entry into the U.S., while the Deceased Donor Registration (DDR) collects home country.

The Committee agreed to clarify the U.S. citizen categorization by adding language to broadly encompass all types of pathways to U.S. citizenship.

The Committee agreed to eliminate references to organ procurement organizations (OPOs) checking source documentation and verification for citizenship status. A member stated that OPOs may risk a donation by requesting verification of citizenship status. The Chair added that the guidance document should not change current practices of OPOs collecting citizenship status. A member responded that OPOs should be encouraged to ascertain citizenship status when they are able and when it is reliable, without the risk of jeopardizing donation. The Committee agreed to add additional language into the guidance document to address these concerns.

Another member stated that it is important to collect citizenship status data on deceased donors in order to contextualize the frequency of non-U.S. citizen/resident and non-U.S. citizen/non-U.S. resident donation and transplantation. The Committee recognized that entry of citizenship status is required but OPOs have the ability to submit "unknown" as an option on the DDR citizenship status data collection field. The Chair suggested that the Committee further discuss the challenges associated with deceased donor citizenship status data collection.

A member stated that among conversations with colleagues in California, it is anecdotally reported that an estimated 20 percent of deceased donors are undocumented individuals. The member added that

their colleagues cite there are at least one or two undocumented deceased donors a month, but they do not pry for citizenship status in these cases over concern of jeopardizing the donation. Another member agreed and stated that this is likely common among all U.S. border states. Another member stated caution in making such assumptions.

The Committee reviewed the proposed post-public comment changes within the guidance document.

The Committee voted to send the *Guidance for Data Collection Regarding Classification of Deceased Donors* document to the OPTN Board of Directors for consideration.

2. Open Forum

A member expressed interest in the Committee meeting in-person. The member also expressed interest in collaborating with other OPTN Committees by providing updates on the Committee's work.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 16, 2021
- December 14, 2021

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Barry Friedman
 - Chang Liu
 - Howard Nathan
 - Min Zhou
 - Peter Stock
 - Prakash Rao
 - Samy Riad
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Christian Folken
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Matt Prentice
 - Meghan McDermott