

**OPTN/UNOS Operations and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2017
Conference Call**

**David Marshman, CPTC, BS, Chair
Michael Marvin, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Operations and Safety Committee (hereafter, the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 03/02/2017 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Announcements
2. Public Comment Proposal: Improving Allocation of En Bloc Kidneys
3. Concept Paper: Improving Allocation of Double Kidneys
4. Public Comment Proposal: National Liver Review Board: Policy and Exception Score Assignments
5. Redesigned OPTN Organ Labels

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

1. Announcements

Committee members were reminded of the upcoming in-person meeting on March 28, 2017 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton. Committee members were informed that the Executive Committee passed the proposed delay of TransNet VCA Implementation until November 1, 2017. OPOs will be required to use TransNet to package and label all other organs and accompanying materials starting June 1, 2017 as approved by the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors in June 2016.

2. Public Comment Proposal: Improving Allocation of En Bloc Kidneys

The Kidney Transplantation Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Nicole Turgeon presented their public comment proposal: Improving Allocation of En Bloc Kidneys.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee was asked about the specific feedback requested regarding the weight. The Committee did not have any specific recommendations for the weight except that they supported the Kidney Committee specifying a weight versus a range to remove ambiguity in allocation practices.

Several Committee members, both on the transplant and OPO sides, expressed concerns that the second kidney of a split en bloc would need to go back to the OPO for reallocation. The concerns were based on the difficulties of allocating a single en bloc kidney, the likelihood that the recovering and transplant surgeons may be different, the current issues with offering organs to programs that end not transplanting en bloc or pediatric candidates, the potential increased cold ischemic time (CIT), and potential logistical issues depending on travel distance. Some members stated that the transplant program should be allowed to use the second kidney so "we won't have wasted kidney" or a kidney possibly perceived to be on the edge. One OPO member agreed that these "are tough to place in general" and that the "chances of second kidney getting wasted are pretty high" It was urged to allow the donation to be maximized and ensure it will get used and not work against clocks. It was noted these kidneys are hard to send back and reallocate. One member noted that much of the issue has to do with where you are in the country.

The Kidney Committee responded that they had previously heard and thoroughly discussed this concern. The Kidney Committee believes that because en bloc programs must opt in under the proposal that the match will be easier to work through the list. They also noted that this not new policy but current policy. All organs that cannot be transplanted into the original intended recipient must be reallocated back to the OPO. It is more likely that the program will get back the other en bloc because of the limited match and thus the concern may be more theoretical versus practical. An Operations and Safety Committee member raised the importance of considerations on a case by case basis and obtaining local back up to mitigate CIT and logistic concerns. It was noted that the Kidney Committee considered local back up but that this is not a term defined in policy. Since it means differing things depending on region and member that they did not put this term or concept into the proposal.

Next steps:

The Committee will translate the discussion into formal public comment to provide to the Kidney Committee.

3. Concept Paper: Improving Allocation of Double Kidneys

The Kidney Transplantation Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Nicole Turgeon presented their concept paper: Improving Allocation of Double Kidneys.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not express any concerns with the concept paper.

Next steps:

The Committee will submit formal public comment on the concept paper.

4. Public Comment Proposal: National Liver Review Board: Policy and Exception Score Assignments

The Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Julie Heimbach presented their public comment proposal: National Liver Review Board: Policy and Exception Score Assignments.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee did not have any concerns about the NRLB proposal. The Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee was praised for the significant work and thought that went into the proposal.

Next steps:

The Committee will submit formal public comment.

5. Redesigned OPTN Organ Labels

The Committee reviewed draft redesigned OPTN organ labels.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee supports the new look and feel of the draft labels. They are supportive of redesigning the labels to fit with TransNet labels. The Committee requested that extra vessels check boxes under the box contents be added to the liver and pancreas external labels. The Committee questioned why the separate extra vessels and specimen label was a smaller size. It was explained that this was likely due to crossmatch specimens being sent ahead of kidneys and extra vessels shipments sent separately.

Next steps:

The feedback to add extra vessels to the liver and pancreas labels will be shared with UNOS staff working on the label redesign.

Upcoming Meeting

- March 28, 2017 (Chicago)