

**OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2017
Conference Call**

**Sarah Nicholas, BSN, RN, CCTC, Chair
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Introduction

The Transplant Coordinators Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 08/16/2017 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Responses to Public Comment Proposals

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

1. Responses to Public Comment Proposals

Living Organ Donation by Persons with Certain Fatal Diseases Who Meet the Criteria to be Living Organ Donors (Ethics Committee)

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC) supports continued research into the Ethics Committee's public comment proposal (Living Organ Donation by Persons with Certain Fatal Diseases Who Meet the Criteria to be Living Organ Donors). The Committee recognizes this as an innovative proposal to alleviate the organ shortage as well as means to empower this potential donor population. Committee members applaud the work the Ethics Committee has invested in this project in evaluating its ethical soundness. However, the impact this will have on public trust in the US is not yet well understood. Members also recognize that there would be substantial challenges in implementation including how post donation outcomes of donors with fatal diseases would be addressed without fear of penalty or flagging from regulatory bodies and payers. Centers would also need to clearly define what would be defined as a post donation complication. Programs would rely heavily on the OPTN for education, guidance, protocols and reassurance that the death of this type of living donor would not affect their living donor outcomes. The Committee agrees that individuals with certain fatal diseases should have the ability to choose to help another during their own end of life experience. And while this may expand opportunities for transplant, the Committee remains concerned that it may simultaneously have the potential to erode public trust.

Allowing Deceased Donor-Initiated Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Chains (Kidney Transplantation Committee)

The TCC received a presentation and provided the following feedback on the Kidney Transplantation Committee's public comment proposal (Allowing Deceased Donor-Initiated Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) Chains). The TCC supports further evaluation into utilizing deceased donors to facilitate KPD transplants. The Committee agreed that this project closely aligns with the OPTN Strategic plan of increasing kidney transplantation. While aiming to increase the volume of overall transplants performed, it was acknowledged that the potential ethical implications of using deceased donors for exchanges, including concern that certain subpopulations may be disadvantaged by deceased donor chains because the chain ending kidney that returns to the waitlist is likely not to be from the O blood group. The Committee questioned whether blood type O kidneys would be siphoned off without reciprocal return to the deceased donor list. This concern has also been noted by observations that KPD registries tend to have a greater number of ABO-incompatible pairs with blood type O recipients. Given that

challenge of utilizing A1B donors in the current system, it could potentially offer these potential donors an opportunity to donate directly to the list under proposed Model 2 (List Exchange Model). Members also commented that the List Exchange Model may be preferable given that the living donor donates first, which ensures that a kidney is donated to the waitlist. The Committee looks forward to further predictive data modeling from the SRTR in order to better understand the effect of the utilization of deceased donor kidneys to initiate chains. Pilot studies may be of value if the modeling supports both equity and utility concerns.

Upcoming Meeting

- September 13, 2017 (Chicago, IL)