

OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinator Committee (TCC)
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017
Chicago, IL

Sarah Nicholas, BSN, RN, CCTC, Chair
Sharon Klarman, RN, CNS, MSN, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Transplant Coordinator Committee met via Citrix in Chicago, IL on 09/13/2017 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Proposals
2. TCC Learning Series

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

1. Public Comment

The Committee received presentations and provided feedback on the following public comment proposals:

- **Enhancing Liver Distribution (Liver and Intestinal Organ Transplantation Committee)**
The TCC supported the proposal in general and agreed this is a better compromise than the previous proposal. It was suggested that the Liver Committee clarify classification levels more as the level of blood type compatibility in the higher classification levels is unclear.
- **Improving the Efficiency of Organ Placement (OPO Committee)**
The TCC supported the proposal in general and applaud the work the OPO Committee has invested in the development of this proposal. The main concern expressed by the Committee was the suggested organ offer time limits but agreed these changes are a good first step to improving the organ placement process.
One member asked if the OPO Committee has discussed considering DCD donors any differently than brain dead donors. If provisional DCD offers are accepted, how will that impact the patient as this may affect how centers decide which offers are accepted. The presenter stated that currently there is not a proposal to have a differentiation between DCD and brain dead cases.
The Committee suggested providing a definition for the start time an offer was accepted and definitions should differ for each organ. Members also suggested offering effective practices and educational offerings to assist transplant centers with the new time limits. Other suggestions included:
 - real time push notifications indicating any changes in donor status for centers to be able to re-assess the offer in a timely manner
 - to be able to see how many centers are ahead of your center
 - advising centers that use 3rd party vendors for organ offer calls to review and adjust practices for vendors.

2. TCC Learning Series

The TCC Learning Series is a series of educational offerings that share lessons learned, improve professional practices and ultimately increase the number of transplants. The series is

aimed at both OPO and transplant centers and allows transplant professionals to learn strategies that are being utilized in the community to address common issues and barriers to transplant.

The first year of the Learning Series offerings will be completed with the release of the last offering on September 27th titled Coordinator Retention. This recording is intended to help OPOs and centers start critical conversations about the challenges associated with coordinator retention.

The Committee worked in groups to brainstorm the content for each of the below topics. These offerings will be developed and released via UNOS Connect for 2018:

1. UNetsm Reports – Harnessing the potential of UNet reports

The Work Group decided this offering would strive to answer the following questions:

- What reports would help ease the most challenging parts of a coordinator's duties?
- How can multiple data points be cross-referenced to guide patient care?
- What are some of the studies that illustrate how reports can be leveraged?

The Work Group discussed ways to address these questions in the offering by demonstrating how to identify patterns in organ offers, identify trends, examine acceptance practices, compare center data with region data, and define the composition of the waitlist by using UNet reports.

2. PHS Increased Risk – How to talk to patients about increased risk donors

This offering will demonstrate effective ways to discuss increased risk donors with patients by providing a sample script new coordinators could use when talking with patients. This offering will also provide analogies that will help coordinators convey the risks of increased risk donors as compared to other risks associated with transplant and provide existing resources.

3. Donor Management – Impact of donor management on transplant

This offering will describe how donor management decisions impact recipient outcomes. It will also provide resources that will help coordinators better understand these outcomes and some lessons learned to help increase collaboration between transplant centers and OPOs.

4. Explaining the Waitlist – Helping coordinators educate patients on the process of organ allocation

This offering will educate coordinators about effective ways to talk with patients about the waitlist. The Work Group discussed the main issue with the waitlist is the name. Patients believe when they are listed on the waitlist they are placed on a numerical list. Coordinators need the tools and resources on how to better explain this complex system in plain language. This offering will also provide resources on how to explain a match run and the factors that affect the likelihood of a match.

The Work Group will partner and collaborate with the OPTN/UNOS Patient Affairs Committee (PAC). The PAC is discussing the development of resources for patients that explain the waitlist in plain language. These resources will also be included in the TCC Explaining the Waitlist offering to be used by the coordinator as a patient education tool.

Upcoming Meeting

- November 15, 2017

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Doug Bremers
 - Christine Brenner
 - Jamie Bucio
 - Richard Cummings
 - Dawn Freiburger
 - Missy Holliday
 - Barbara Jenkins
 - Sharon Klarman
 - Cathy McAdams
 - Stacy McKean
 - Sarah Nicholas
 - Chris Schwartz
 - Jessica Sinyard
 - Le Ann Stamos
 - Shannon Thompkins
 - Erika Venniro
 - Debra Walczak
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
- **OPTN/UNOS Staff**
 - Angel Carroll
 - Jeff Davis
 - Michelle Wilson
 - Robert Hunter
 - Mathew Prentice
- **Other Attendees**
 - Jennifer Prinz
 - Julie Heimbach