

OPTN/UNOS Transplant Administrators Committee (TAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018
Conference Call

James Pittman, RN, MSN, Chair
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Introduction

The Transplant Administrators Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 01/24/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Review of Public Comment Proposal
2. 2017 December Board Update
3. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update

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

1. Review of Public Comment Proposal

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Administrators Committee received a presentation and discussed the Improving Committee Structure Concept Paper. The Committee was in agreement that finding ways for more people to be involved is well-intentioned. However, there were several concerns voiced during the meeting and submitted via the RedCap public comment form. The main concern with this concept was transplant administrators would have less influence if there is not a central place for them to voice their opinion. One member mentioned that transplant administrators are overlooked on organ committees now and this could further that problem. There was also a lot of discussion about managing expert council participation. While this concept paper is intended to increase member participation, it could actually decrease meaningful participation and geographic perception. The expert councils as described are very broad and almost an open door policy which may dilute the effectiveness. An example provided was members on an expert council may adapt a mentality of "someone else will respond if I don't" if there are hundreds of administrators on the expert council. Another potential issue is that allowing so many people to become members minimizes prestige and privilege of serving on an OPTN/UNOS Committee. Also, having too many opinions may make it more difficult to gain consensus. It was suggested that there should be specific criteria for selecting members for expert council positions and members of these councils need to be vetted properly. Another issue would be administrators actually having the time to volunteer on expert councils. There was concern about what will happen to the Transplant Management Forum (TMF) planning process and UNOS will still need a TMF planning committee that meets in person.

2. 2017 December Board Update

The Committee received a brief overview of the Board discussions and decisions from the 2017 December Board meeting. All consent agenda items were approved. These included improve allocation of dual kidneys, the Hope Act variance extension was moved to 2020, a thoracic guidance document, a guidance document on A2/A2B to blood type B candidates, updates to HLA equivalency tables, revisions to pediatric emergency exception, approved transplant fellowship training policy, and the Ethics White Paper on living donation by persons with life-limiting illnesses.

All but one discussion items were approved. There was a lengthy discussion around enhancing liver distribution and this ended up being approved as originally written.

The discussion item not approved was pancreas allocation. It was recommended the Pancreas Committee work on updates and bring them back to the board for approval before they move forward.

The Committee was reminded that the next public comment cycle is January 22, 2018 through March 23, 2018. The Committee will review the following proposals:

- Distribution of Adult Lungs (Thoracic Committee)
- Expedited Organ Placement Concept Paper (OPO Committee)

3. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update

The Committee received an update on the POC's recent activities. Those activities include reviewed 5 new projects since October 2017, reviewed and prioritized Goal 2 projects, provided recommendations for those projects to the Executive Committee, reviewed proposals that are currently out for public comment, and in May 2018 they will review the entire committee project portfolio including all ongoing projects. Below are the new projects reviewed and recommended for approval by the POC since October:

- Broader Sharing of Adult Lungs (Thoracic)
- National Heart Review Board (Thoracic)
- Principles of Allocation and Multi-organ Candidates (Ethics)
- Change in the CPRA Calculation (Histocompatibility)
- Reduce Pediatric Liver Waiting List Mortality (Pediatric)

A new project titled "Improving Access for Pediatric and Highly Sensitized Kidney Candidates" falls under Goal 2 and will be considered by the POC at its February conference call. If that project is approved by the Executive Committee along with the others listed above, the strategic plan alignment will be slightly over-allocated in Goals 2 and 4, on target for Goal 3, and have some room in Goals 1 and 5.

Upcoming Meeting:

- February 28, 2018 (Conference Call)
- March 28, 2018 (Conference Call)