

**OPTN/UNOS Ad Hoc International Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018
Conference Call**

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Introduction

The Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (AHIRC) met via teleconference on 05/09/18 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. 2017 Annual Report of Non-US Resident Transplant Activity
2. Living Donor Data Report
3. Voluntary Program Questionnaire

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

1. 2017 Annual Report of Non-US Resident Transplant Activity

Data Review

UNOS Research staff presented a summary of the 2017 annual report. This is the fourth annual report that fulfills the requirements in *Policy 17.1.C: Review of Non-US Citizens/Non-US Resident Registrations and Transplants*.

Highlights of the presentation include:

Waitlist Additions

- During 2017 a total of 57,610 adult and pediatric registrations were added to the US solid organ transplant waiting list.
- Of those, 746 (1.3%) were indicated to be for candidates not residing in the United States, including 321 registrations for candidates in the US specifically for the purpose of transplantation.
- The percentage of non-U.S. resident registrations in the US for transplant added in 2017 varies by organ, from zero kidney-pancreas registrations to 8.0% (16) of intestine registrations.
- Over 81% (666) of all programs had no registrations added during 2017 where the candidate citizenship was reported as non-U.S. resident.
- There were 33 programs (18 kidney, 11 liver, 2 lung, 1 heart, and 1 intestine) with four or more non-U.S. resident registrations added to the waiting list.

Deceased Donor Transplants

- During 2017 a total of 57,610 adult and pediatric registrations were added to the US solid organ transplant waiting list.
- Of those, 746 (1.3%) were indicated to be for candidates not residing in the United States, including 321 registrations for candidates in the US specifically for the purpose of transplantation.

- The percentage of non-U.S. resident registrations in the US for transplant added in 2017 varies by organ, from zero kidney-pancreas registrations to 8.0% (16) of intestine registrations.
- Over 81% (666) of all programs had no registrations added during 2017 where the candidate citizenship was reported as non-U.S. resident.
- There were 33 programs (18 kidney, 11 liver, 2 lung, 1 heart, and 1 intestine) with four or more non-U.S. resident registrations added to the waiting list.

Observations

- No difference between the percentage of non-US residents listed for transplant and the percentage of non-US residents receiving transplant (1.3% for 2017).
- Absolute number of waitlist additions and deceased donor transplants remains very low but have been trending up. The numbers were slightly down in 2016 but up again in 2017.
- Activity appears to be concentrated within a small number of programs (Regions 5 and 9).
- Most programs don't list non-US resident candidates.
- Non-US citizens do become deceased donors in US.

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee discussed another observation that the numbers have been going up for non-citizen, non-resident (NCNR) in the US for a reason other than transplant, while the numbers of NCNRs in the US specifically for transplant has been going down. There is also a level of uncertainty about the category of individuals who are not living in the US but somehow find themselves in need of a deceased donor transplant. NCNRs in the US for reasons other than transplant have increased from 75 in 2014 to 196 in 2017 so that is a substantial change in the number of candidates who were reported in that category.

Next Steps:

The 2017 Annual Report of Non-US Resident Transplant Activity will be provided as part of the materials for the June 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

2. Living Donor Data Report

Data Review

- 1.7% of related living donor transplants (kidney and liver) were NCNR recipients whereas 0.9% of unrelated living donor transplants (kidney and liver) were NCNR recipients
 - The percentages of NCNR related living donor liver recipients were higher but this is due to much fewer total recipients
- 230 centers performed at least 1 living donor kidney transplant
 - 57 of these performed at least 1 living donor kidney NCNR transplant
- 51 centers performed at least 1 living donor liver transplant
 - 13 of these performed at least 1 living donor kidney NCNR transplant
- Living donor kidney NCNR recipients came from over 18 different countries

- Living donor liver NCNR recipients came from 9 different countries

Summary of Discussion:

One committee member noted that many transplant centers are willing to accept non-US citizens for living donors but not for deceased donors. Another committee member asked if there was a way to review the correlation between listing practices for deceased donor transplants versus living donor activity. This would include center-specific information on whether a center is performing living donor transplants but not deceased donor transplants. Another committee member noted that it would be interesting to review the means of financial reimbursement based on information collected for these transplants.

There was another question raised about the country of origin for living donors. UNOS Research staff noted that the data report includes the country of origin for both kidney and liver living donors.

3. Voluntary Program Questionnaire

The Committee did not have time to discuss the voluntary program questionnaire. Committee leadership will discuss the questionnaire during an upcoming leadership call and provide the Committee with an update at the next conference call.

Upcoming Meetings

- TBD