

OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinators Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018
Chicago, IL

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Introduction

The Committee met in Chicago, IL on 03/20/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Implementation Plan for NLRB and Liver Distribution Presentation
2. Public Comment Proposals
3. TCC Learning Series
4. Policy Review Group Work

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

1. Implementation Plan for NLRB and Liver Distribution Presentation

UNOS staff presented an update on the implementation of the National Liver Review Board (NLRB) and changes to Liver Distribution. Both efforts are scheduled to be implemented in 2018 and UNOS staff solicited feedback from TCC on the implementation schedule and the educational offerings provided to prepare the community for the implementation.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee requested that educational trainings offered be listed online. In response to who would provide specific feedback on potential and unintended consequences, the presenter stated that the Liver Committee will be the point of contact for unintended consequences feedback. It was also noted that the changes presented only affect liver for the time being.

2. Public Comment Proposals

The Committee received presentations and provided comment both through the online public comment RedCap form and during the meeting for the following public comment proposals.

Summary of discussion:

OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinator Committee received a presentation and provided feedback on the Executive Committee's OPTN/UNOS Strategic Plan proposal. The Committee supported this proposal but commented that smaller centers are able to take less risk with marginal donors placing those recipients at a disadvantage, even though there is some risk adjustment (Goal 3: Improve waitlisted patient, living donor and transplant recipient outcomes). Several members stated that the strategic plan goals are not communicated well to the full transplant community. UNOS needs to ensure all transplant professionals are made aware of the strategic plan.

Expedited Organ Placement Concept Paper

The OPTN/UNOS Transplant Coordinator Committee received a presentation and provided feedback on the OPO Committee's Expedited Organ Placement Concept Paper. The Committee supported the concept paper but had some questions and suggestions. There were several members that questioned how program participation eligibility will be determined in the expedited placement process and who will determine the hospital's screening criteria – UNOS

or the program. Concerns were voiced regarding UNOS determining donor screening criteria based on a center's prior acceptance practices and how patients will be informed of the screening criteria. If patients are not informed, it could limit their access to transplant. There must be a level of transparency for patients to be able to make an informed decision about where they want to list (which center). Other feedback included taking into consideration how quickly parameters change, for example, using Hep C+ kidneys in Hep C- patients. These organs might become increasingly appealing outside the expedited offer arena. The Committee requested the OPO work group to consider allowing centers a probationary period to consider evaluating expedited offers before screening practices are modified or allow an "opt out" option. Another member suggested allowing a center to enter a provisional yes and enter their acceptance parameters into the system through a comment option or screening criteria option. The OPO could view the parameters entered and see where the center stands in comparison to other centers. If the center criteria entered does not meet the donor parameters then they will (can be) be bypassed (or screened off) and the OPO could move to the next center that will accept the current donor criteria.

3. TCC Learning Series

The Committee received updates on the learning series metrics for the January 2018 Learning Series offering – Leveraging UNetsm Reports. A Donor Management Learning Series offering priority meeting was held and the work groups discussed content for this offering. The PHS Learning Series Work Group also presented and discussed the results to the TCC PHS Increased Risk survey that was sent to the full committee in February 2018. Based off this survey and committee and work group discussions, a PHS resource document will be released in April.

4. Policy Review Group Work

The Committee reviewed, discussed, provided feedback, and recommendations on existing Policy 3 - Candidate Registrations, Modifications, and Removals and Policy 5 – Organ Offers, Acceptance, and Verification. The Committee split into two work groups and were asked to respond to the following questions via survey:

- Does the policy reflect real world practice?
- Is the policy operationally outdated?
- Is the policy current, or has clinical practice changed and is not reflected in current policy?
- Does the policy include too much or too little information in order to understand the policy or be in compliance with the policy?
- Final recommendations

These recommendations will be submitted for review by the UNOS Policy Director to determine next steps.

Upcoming Meeting

- May 16, 2018 (Teleconference)