Introduction

The Ethics Committee (the Committee) met via GoTo teleconference on 11/29/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Feedback on multi-organ transplant (MOT) paper

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

1. Feedback on MOT paper

The Committee introduced the background for the MOT paper and discussed feedback from both the Committee members and other members of additional committees.

Summary of discussion:

Upon introduction of the MOT paper, the Committee members emphasized that current MOT policy has been developed in a piecemeal fashion and the goal of the paper is to provide an ethical framework and recommendations for potential future policy. One committee member pointed out that the term “maxim” should be adjusted to “maximin”. OPTN/UNOS staff noted the change.

The discussion turned to concerns raised by the Pediatric Committee that the paper does not address pediatric patients. One Committee member explained that the decision to focus on adult MOT was because the Committee felt that the issues related to pediatric MOT were significantly different and should be dealt with in a separate paper. A Board member expressed support for addressing pediatric issues separately but added that kidney-pancreas (KP) should be considered as it relates to prioritization for pediatric patients. A member of the Pancreas Committee felt that the paper was very well written and adequately addressed why KP was not included in MOT; the member also felt that additional focus on KP and pediatric prioritization was unnecessary.

Next steps:

The Committee will work on updating the MOT draft over e-mail, specifically focusing on discussion of transparency and pediatric patients. The Committee is still seeking additional feedback from other stakeholders including other organ-specific committees and will incorporate feedback before the next MOT workgroup call, which will be held on December 11, 2018. On December 20, 2018 the full Committee will vote to send the proposal out for public comment.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 11, 2018 – MOT Work Group Call (teleconference)
- December 20, 2018 – Ethics Committee Call (teleconference)