

OPTN/UNOS Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2019
Conference Call

Jennifer Prinz, RN, BSN, MPH, CPTC, Chair
Diane Brockmeier, RN, BSN, MHA, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee met via teleconference on March 14, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Organ Center Accelerated Placement Concept
2. Ethical Implications of Multi-Organ Transplant

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

1. Organ Center Accelerated Placement Concept

UNOS Research and Organ Center staff provided an overview of this concept.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff noted that this concept will focus on increasing placement of hard-to-place kidneys through the Organ Center. The idea is to identify donor triggers for accelerated placement as well as identify transplant centers that utilize hard-to-place kidneys. It prioritizes offers to those programs more likely to accept them while continuing to offer to all programs.

UNOS staff presented the donor trigger concepts and transplant program qualifying criteria. Highlights include the following:

- Matches for kidneys that were not accepted at first the mandatory high CPRA & 0-mismatch, local, or regional offers will be eligible for accelerated placement.
- Only a subset of kidney matches, that are already offered and refused at the local and regional offer by all candidates, will be included.
- We further narrow the scope of eligible kidneys and match runs for accelerated placement by only considering those that are from donors with high KDPI values, above some threshold.
- For those matches that will be accelerated, candidate offers at transplant programs that have transplanted a like organ previously will receive offers first, preserving candidate order, before the organ is offered to candidates at all other programs, preserving patient order.
- KDPI is the trigger with age, peak serum creatinine, history of diabetes, history of IV drug use, and donation after circulatory death as additional donor characteristics.

One Committee member asked how this concept could be done without violating kidney allocation policy. The OPO Committee has developed a couple of policy proposals and continue to receive pushback on using past acceptance history to determine which transplant hospitals receive organ offers. There is concern that candidates would be bypassed or screened off on match runs because of past acceptance history.

UNOS staff clarified that those programs who have a history of accepting these marginal organs would get the offers first. If they do not accept, this offer would go to any remaining programs.

A member stated that this process should be expanded to the expedited placement of livers. The OPO Committee has spent a lot of time working on an expedited placement policy for livers while the Organ Center is working on this process for kidneys without going through the policy development process. UNOS staff clarified that this proposed process would have to go through the Board. One of the bigger differences with kidney allocation is that policy allows national offers to be allocated by the Organ Center but is not specific on how the process works. With those national kidney offers going to the Organ Center, as long as there is a procedure in place and it is detailed in the operational plan, it is acceptable. With livers, there is no part of policy addressing Organ Center placement.

UNOS staff continued and added that if this were to be proposed as a permanent change it would need to go through the policy development process. This pilot is trying to test this method of expedited placement. If this process does not work, it will revert back to the current process for allocating national kidney offers through the Organ Center. It is the hope that this process can pave the way for Committees working on expedited placement to use some of these findings to aid in developing national policy.

The Committee Chair summarized that the OPO Committee is not against this process, but it does cause some concern from the Committee's perspective based on the current criticisms voiced on the expedited liver placement proposal. Overall, the Committee is in agreement with getting these kidneys placed in an efficient manner to avoid discards and the hope is that this would be expanded to the other organs as well.

UNOS staff agreed with this and stated that this could be something that could serve as a framework for liver and not just national kidneys.

Another member asked if there are waivers that will be offered and how this would work. UNOS staff replied that waivers would still work the way it is currently done.

There were no other comments or feedback from members.

Next Steps:

- UNOS staff will continue to present this concept to key stakeholders
- Present the full concept to the Executive Committee
- Develop a communication plan
- Begin a year-long proof of concept with ongoing evaluation

2. Ethical Implications of Multi-Organ Transplants (MOT)

The Ethics Committee Chair provided an overview of this white paper that is currently out for public comment.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee Chair asked about the process for reviewing and updating white papers that have been approved by the Board of Directors. The Ethics Committee Chair stated that after approval, all white papers will be posted on the OPTN website. The Ethics Committee Chair also noted that this particular topic has not been reviewed before but there has been a review of other papers.

A member asked that in the context of all current allocation policy related to multi-organ placement, will those policies now be reviewed in terms of this white paper or does the white paper stand by itself and as new policies develop, this is looked at and considered. The Ethics Committee Chair replied that allocation policies are currently under revision based on geography, which would have some bearing to MOT. Moving forward with any new policies, it would be worthwhile for committees to consult the white paper.

The Committee Chair moved for a vote on the proposed white paper.

Vote:

- What is your opinion of this proposal?
 - **Vote: 1 Strongly Support, 10 Support, 0 Abstain/Neutral, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose**

The OPO Committee supports this white paper and only questioned how the Ethics Committee reviews approved white papers or guidance documents to ensure they are current.

Next Steps:

UNOS staff will draft and send the comments made on each presented proposal to the Committee Chair and Vice Chair for their review. Once finalized and approved, the Committee's vote and comments will be posted for public comment.

Upcoming Meeting

- April 16, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois