

OPTN/UNOS Living Donor Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019
Conference Call

Randy Schaffer III, MD, Chair
Heather Hunt, JD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Living Donor Committee met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 3/13/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Kidney-Pancreas (KP) Workgroup Concept Paper
2. Other Public Comment Proposals
3. Social Media Project Form Update

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

1. Kidney-Pancreas (KP) Workgroup Concept Paper

The Vice Chair of the Kidney Committee presented the *Eliminate the use of Donation Service Areas (DSAs) and Regions from Kidney and Pancreas Distribution* concept paper currently out for public comment.

Summary of Discussion

There were questions from the Committee regarding the decrease in transplant rate and count shown in the initial modeling included in the concept paper. It was explained there are limitations to the Kidney Pancreas Simultaneous Allocation Model (KPSAM) as it cannot predict behavior changes once a new geography framework is implemented. The Kidney Committee Vice Chair and UNOS staff stated the KP Workgroup is committed to increasing transplant rates. UNOS staff further explained it's not unprecedented to see a behavior change following a change in allocation. For example, when implementing the Kidney Allocation System (KAS) the modeling didn't show an effect on transplant count but once implemented according to the two year post-implementation report there was an increase of nine percent.

One Committee member suggested considering the concept of disease burden and how that impacts the supply of organs.

The Committee asked the Kidney Committee Representative to speak to the Kidney Committee's discussion on prioritization for living donors who are candidates for kidney transplant. The Kidney Committee Vice Chair said the Kidney Committee was discussing some updates to KAS to include more prioritization for prior living donors. The project is currently on hold due to the current geography project; however, the KP Workgroup will be discussion the possibility of including increased prioritization for pediatric and prior living donor candidates in their second round of modeling for the geography project.

Feedback Poll

Which framework do you prefer?

- 29% preferred fixed concentric circles
- 71% preferred hybrid

Within the framework you selected, which circle size do you prefer?

- 11% preferred 150 NM
- 32% preferred 250 NM
- 16% preferred 300 NM
- 42% preferred 500 NM

If you prefer a hybrid framework, please indicate whether you prefer shallow, steep, or no proximity points outside the circle?

- 31% preferred shallow
- 31% preferred steep
- 38% preferred no points

If you prefer a hybrid framework, please indicate whether you prefer shallow, steep, or no proximity points within the circle?

- 40% preferred shallow
- 20% preferred steep
- 40% preferred no points

Should there be different distribution systems for kidney and pancreas organs?

- 43% said yes
- 57% said no

2. Other Public Comment Proposals

UNOS staff presented a brief overview of three other public comment proposals to the Committee.

- *Eliminate the Use of Regions in VCA Distribution*, Vascularized Composite Allograft (VCA) Transplantation Committee
- *Eliminate the Use of DSAs in Thoracic Distribution*, Thoracic Organ Transplantation Committee
- *Split Liver Variance*, Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Committee

Summary of discussion:

The Chair reminded the Committee that the Living Donor and VCA Committees will begin working together to consider living donor policies and data collection related to VCA living donors.

Next Steps

The VCA Committee Chair will present at the upcoming in-person meeting in Chicago.

3. Social Media Project Form Update

UNOS staff updated the Committee on the current status of the Social Media project form. After multiple edits a more concise form has been sent onto the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for review. Staff reinforced that the scope of this project is education for transplant hospitals. The POC will meet on March 26 so feedback will be received in time for the in-person meeting in Chicago.

4. Maintenance Dialysis Project Update

The Chair reported to the Committee that the Maintenance Dialysis project had recently been presented to the Data Advisory Committee (DAC) at their request. The project was well received by the DAC. Discussion was had during the presentation to the DAC regarding the existing

barriers to modifying an United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved form and how the anticipated duration of such a process had influenced the final product of the Committee's Maintenance Dialysis project. It was suggested by the DAC staff that there may be a streamlined process coming from OMB in the near future that would reduce barriers to improving the quality of existing OMB-approved forms through modifications intended to enhance the collection of meaningful and reportable data. The DAC Chair asked the Committee to maintain a list of desired modifications to the existing Living Donor Follow-up form (LDF)—specifically, the types of “kidney complications” that the Committee would want to track via the LDF—should the process allow for this to be revisited in the future.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 1, In-person, Chicago
- May 8, Teleconference
- June 12, Teleconference