

**OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee (TCC)  
Meeting Minutes  
May 15, 2019  
Conference Call**

**Sarah Nicholas, RN, B.S.N., CCTC, Chair  
Sharon Klarman, RN-BC, B.S.N., CCTC, Vice Chair**

**Introduction**

The Transplant Coordinators Committee met via teleconference on May 15, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Pilot Programs and OPTN Project Updates
2. Request from OPTN Living Donor Committee
3. TCC Learning Series Development
4. Other Significant Items

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

**1. Pilot Program and OPTN Project Updates**

The Vice Chair and UNOS staff updated the Committee on new pilot programs and OPTN committee projects.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee previously identified two potential projects for future work. This included an electronic mechanism for notifying transplant program staff of post-recovery culture & sensitivity results and infectious disease test results, and the desire to have a "offer filter" function in DonorNet<sup>SM</sup>. UNOS staff shared:

- Electronic mechanism for notification of post-recovery test results – UNOS is developing a pilot project with five OPOs and 15 transplant programs to electronically notify transplant program staff of post-recovery test results. Within the pilot, the notifications apply to culture and sensitivity, pathology, and infectious disease results. In addition to an electronic notification, the pilot includes a mechanism to notify OPO staff that results were reviewed by the transplant program. This pilot project is anticipated to conclude in Q2 2020 with targeted deployment in DonorNet in Q3 2020. Committee members expressed their support for this project and were eager to hear a report on the scope and intended goals.
- Offer filter function in DonorNet<sup>SM</sup> – the OPTN is piloting a project to allow transplant program staff to apply electronic filters to match run lists in DonorNet. The goal of this pilot project is to increase organ utilization and decrease the instance of organs being recovered and not transplanted. Participating transplant programs will begin applying filters in May 2019. A feedback report is planned for Q3 2019. A handful of members shared their respective transplant hospitals were participating in the pilot and were eager to see the results.

The Vice Chair engaged her colleagues on the Policy Oversight Committee earlier this month. Two projects in development were identified that would be of interest the Committee:

- OPTN Data Advisory Committee (DAC) – DAC is developing a project to revise OPTN Policy 18 *Data Submission Requirements*. This would include modifying the time period for data submission and the concept of a "data lock". Members expressed this may be a

good opportunity to share feedback on OPTN data submission (relevant and less relevant data).

- OPTN Operations and Safety Committee – The Operations and Safety is developing a project to collect additional organ transport information. The goal of this project is to gather data to inform how broader organ sharing impacts OPO and transplant hospital operations.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will monitor the pilot programs and facilitate update reports to the Committee. UNOS staff will also review public comment proposals targeted for August 2019 and facilitate presentations with sponsoring OPTN committees.

## **2. Request from OPTN Living Donor Committee**

UNOS staff shared a request from the OPTN Living Donor Committee regarding an upcoming project.

Summary of discussion:

The Living Donor Committee recently received approval from the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee to develop a guidance document on the use of social media to recruit potential living donors. The Living Donor Committee requested two to three members from TCC participate on a working group to develop this guidance. The Vice Chair asked that willing members email the leadership team and UNOS staff. The expectation of these volunteers will be to attend conference calls as scheduled by the Living Donor Committee, serve as subject matter experts (SMEs) to advise the development of the guidance, and serve as a two-way liaison between the Living Donor Committee and TCC. Two members subsequently expressed their interest in the project during the conference call. The Vice Chair thanked them for their commitment to this important project.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will:

- Send an email to the Committee distribution list re: need for volunteers to assist the Living Donor Committee.
- Share the volunteer's contact information with colleagues who support the Living Donor Committee.

## **3. TCC Learning Series Development**

The Committee discussed potential ideas for the 2019 TCC Learning Series.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair initiated a discussion to identify topics for the 2019 TCC Learning Series. This collection of free educational offerings on organ donation and transplant related topics are available to transplant professionals and the public through UNOSConnect. The Committee's past goal was to develop four new offerings each year in collaboration with UNOS staff. UNOS staff then shared a profile of course offerings and registrations. Members affirmed their belief these educational offerings were valuable to the transplant community.

The Vice Chair summarized a list of ideas previously developed by the Committee. She acknowledged that many of these areas have existing educational resources, whether through the OPTN or other entities. Members were asked:

- Are there topics where no educational resources exist?

- Do existing OPTN resources have a gap, either due to changes in clinical practice, OPTN policies/bylaws, etc...?
- Are there existing topics that are relevant, but need to be updated or re-promoted?

Members shared several new ideas during the call, including:

- Staff retention strategies and work/life balance.
- Guidance on requests for kidney or liver biopsies.
- Site survey preparedness (site surveys have changed in past months and an update would be helpful).
- Use of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) positive organs (review existing resource for currency)
- Explaining changes to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Annual Data Report cover page.
- Update organ allocation modules to be consistent with OPTN current policy.
- Review content pertaining OPTN guidance documents.
- Introduce new U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Increased Risk criteria (pending revisions that are in development; this is likely a few months out).
- Dealing with compassion fatigue.

Members shared the new ideas were very relevant to the field. Further, these offerings would be useful for new coordinator training as well as continuing education. The Vice Chair thanked members for their thoughtful contributions.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will share this list of ideas with the Committee. Members are asked to review the list, identify their top four priorities, and email UNOS staff.

**4. Other Significant Items**

The Committee briefly discussed the following items:

- Call for OPTN system enhancement ideas from members. Broader organ sharing may identify these ideas.
- Desire to initiate dialog with OPTN re: enhancement to the Status 7 [candidate inactive] designation in Waitlist<sup>SM</sup>.
- Follow-up report from UNOS Research re: updates to potential transplant recipient refusal codes in DonorNet.

The Vice Chair also shared with the Committee that a leadership transition, and new regional and at-large members would be joining the Committee in July 2019.

With no other business to discuss, the conference call was adjourned.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Conference calls – third Wednesday of each month from 2-3 PM (Eastern)
- In-person meeting – September 9, 2019 from 8:30-3:30 (Eastern), UNOS headquarters in Richmond, Virginia

