

OPTN Operations and Safety Committee

Meeting Summary

July 25, 2019

Conference Call

Michael Marvin, MD, Chair

Christopher Curran, CPTC, CPTBS, CTOP, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Operations and Safety Committee met via teleconference on 7/25/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Member Orientation
2. Committee Charge
3. Data Collection Proposal Update
4. ABO Project Update
5. Updates: HLA Initiative, DonorNet® Functionality, Post-Transplant Reporting

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

1. New Member Orientation

UNOS staff provided orientation for new members.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff provided a new member orientation. The orientation provided members with information regarding the following:

- Expectations for all Committee Members
- Expectations of Regional Representatives
- Structure and upcoming dates for Committee and subcommittee/workgroup meetings
- Committee Website and additional resources
- OPTN Policy Development Process

The Committee Chair reiterated the importance for members to feel that they have a voice and that they provide their input when necessary. There were no additional comments or questions.

2. Committee Charge

The Committee Chair provided an overview of the Committee's project of revising their current charge.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee has been tasked to review their current charge and make revisions as needed. The Committee Chair reviewed the Committee's current charge and asked members for their input on revised language.

A member stated that the use of the word "network" is outdated and is heavily associated with the information systems/information technology (IS/IT) field. In the rewrite of the charge, a better term to use would be "systems" or "system wide".

The Vice Chair stated that the paragraph seemed very task focused and that the charge should be broader. The opening statement should start with the purpose of the Committee.

A member voiced agreement with this and stated that the idea should be more of a mission statement and not a description of the tasks the Committee does. The charge should have a few sentences of the Committee's goals.

The Committee Chair encouraged new members to provide some input on what they feel the Committee should be doing and to think about why they became interested in the Committee. The input received would be discussed during the next meeting.

Next Steps:

- Members will provide suggested revisions to the current Committee Charge and discuss in further detail during the next Committee teleconference.

3. Data Collection Proposal Update

UNOS staff provided an update to the Committee's Data Collection project.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff provided an overview of the data collection project to members. The project began as a proposal, but was decided that the document would instead be a request for input. The intent of the request for input is to solicit suggestions and feedback on the suggested data elements and data source of the Deceased Donor Registration (DDR) form. The feedback received would be considered for a potential future data collection proposal.

The Committee will further evaluate the feedback received and collaborate with UNOS Labs post-public comment. Currently, UNOS Labs is working on a data collection pilot that is focused on travel mode. The Committee will have the opportunity to evaluate additional data collected by UNOS Labs and determine next steps on potentially developing a data proposal in the future.

The Committee Chair commented that if organ check-in was an agreed data element during public comment, the transplant programs would have more knowledge of this information, and it may be more logical to collect this data on the Transplant Recipient Registration (TRR) form.

The Vice Chair stated that UNOS Labs is looking at the time of delivery to a transplant program as a data element, which OPOs do not have access to in most cases. Transplant programs would need to be involved in the collection of this data. This feedback was provided to UNOS Labs.

A member asked what was meant by the term of "logistical impacts" and if this was in reference to costs. The Committee Chair explained that the data proposed is more focused on timing and how much more time it may take to transport organs as broader distribution expands to all organs. The data would also show the reasons for some of those changes in transportation, such as transportation mode.

Next Steps:

- The Data Collection request for input will go out for the fall 2019 public comment cycle from August 2nd – October 2nd.

4. ABO Project Update

The Vice Chair provided an update on the Committee's ABO Project.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair provided an overview of the Committee's ABO project. The Committee was tasked with this project by the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) in response to an ABO typing error.

The focus of the project is to break down the ABO determination process, with the intention to provide more robust support to this process and when results are inconclusive. The project will consist of a guidance document and proposed policy changes to *OPTN Policy 2.6.A: Deceased Donor Blood Type Determination*.

An outline of the guidance document has been drafted. During the next workgroup meeting, the sections of the guidance document will be assigned among workgroup members and new proposed language is being worked on.

5. Updates: HLA Initiative, DonorNet® Functionality, Post-Transplant Reporting

UNOS staff and Committee Leadership provided an update on the Committee's standing projects.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff and Committee Leadership provided an update on the following standing projects of the Committee:

HLA Initiative

In an attempt to eliminate hand entry of HLA results into DonorNet®, the Committee has been working with the Histocompatibility Committee and other HLA experts to try to determine how to develop interfaces between the software used by HLA labs and the UNOS system in an electronic form. It was discovered that a software vendor has the potential to develop this interface to be used as a pilot.

UNOS staff provided an update that UNOS IT is currently working on two projects that would have to happen first before the HLA initiative is addressed. There is a project that will go live in August addressing HLA typing for unacceptable antigens. An HLA typing errors project is slotted to begin afterwards in November. Once these projects end, the HLA initiative project could then be discussed further.

DonorNet® Functionality

The DonorNet® Functionality project is to help provide real-time communication from the OR to respective parties on information such as when the patient is in the OR, incision time, cross clamp, and final packaging of the organs. The Committee is working with UNOS IT staff to work on this process.

UNOS staff provided an update that UNOS IT is aware and interested in working on this project, but currently the project is backlogged due to other IT priorities.

Post-Transplant Reporting

The Post-Transplant Reporting project addresses post donor recovery results and the ability to report these results to transplant programs in a consistent way. The idea of this project is to build a module in DonorNet® to report these results electronically and have a central repository for transplant programs to receive these results. There are five OPOs that will begin this pilot in the near future to evaluate this process further.

The Committee Chair stated that it would be good to address instances where negative results are sent. It would be an improvement if this could be avoided and programs were only alerted of positive results. The Vice Chair agreed with this and stated that this would be the hope of the project in the long term.

There were no additional comments or questions. The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 29, 2019
- September 26, 2019
- October 24, 2019 (in-person meeting)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Michael Marvin
 - Christopher Curran
 - Steven Johnson
 - Melinda Locklear
 - Luis Mayen
 - Joanne Oxman
 - Rich Rothweiler
 - Neeraj Sinha
 - Charles Strom
 - Sue Weese
 - Karlie Wipperling
 - Jennifer Reese
 - Ben Keebler
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
 - Raelene Skerda
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Joann White
 - Robert Hunter
 - Rob Patterson
 - Leah Slife
 - Alice Toll
 - Nicole Benjamin
 - Elizabeth Suskind