

OPTN Thoracic Lung Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2019

Conference Call

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Introduction

The Thoracic Lung Workgroup met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 08/08/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Continuous Distribution of Lungs: Update on Concept Paper
2. Regional Meeting Update

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

1. Continuous Distribution of Lungs: Update on Concept Paper

UNOS staff presented a set of revised PowerPoint slides that will be used during the regional meetings for fall 2019. Workgroup members provided feedback on the slides, including areas for improvement and modification.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff explained that the overall goal for the regional meeting presentations is to emphasize that the continuous distribution model encompasses more than just geography, and that this model is a move away from a classification-based system to a points-based system. The public comment feedback questions are as follows:

1. Do you understand the advantages of a points-based system versus the current classification-based system?
2. Are there other measures of the efficient management of organ placement that should be taken into account in a points-based framework?
3. Will this process work for developing a continuous distribution framework for other organs?

In response to the presentation, one member recommended that the slides include more background information regarding how and why this proposal was considered. Another Workgroup member supported this idea, and suggested rearranging the slides so that the scenario examples are spoken to prior to the background information. Specifically, the member requested the following three examples be included in order to highlight the limitations of the current allocation system:

1. Candidate with an LAS of 90 outside of a 250NM circle not receiving an organ offer (high medical urgent candidate not receiving an organ offer due to geography)
2. Organ procurement teams crisscrossing via plane to procure organs for two candidates with similar LAS scores (organ teams having to fly out for two similar medically urgent candidates)
3. Possibly including an example highlighting sensitized candidates

This member stated that most of the community would not have read the proposal prior to the regional meeting, and could benefit from defining the problem first prior to delving into the background. Also,

the member suggested removing the current scenario examples and replacing them with the three suggested examples listed above. Other members agreed, and opined that the presentation should focus on the limitations of the current allocation system. For example, a member stated that their region has difficulty finding blood type B donors. However, another member stated that the current presentation examples are presenting the above suggested information, albeit in a more complicated manner. This member suggested instead to remove one of the candidates in each scenario, and include a conclusion statement on each slide. An SRTR member also stated that the current scenarios are good at highlighting the limitations of circle sizes. UNOS staff will consider expanding the speaker's notes sections for the slides that presents the background information for this proposal. Furthermore, UNOS staff will look at revising and simplifying the scenario examples so that they are clearer.

One Workgroup member supported including information regarding how the new continuous distribution allocation system would be measured post-implementation. This member was concerned about measuring unintended consequences and equity.

Another concern from members was that this presentation may be too long for the regional meetings. UNOS staff agreed, and stated that they will need to be cautious before adding more presentation slides. However, the thoracic breakout sessions at each region will be one hour long, and will allow more time for thoracic specialists to discuss continuous distribution.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will be providing the Workgroup with updates about the comments received during the public comment cycle, including feedback from regional meetings. Further revisions may be necessary post-public comment cycle and then the concept paper will be presented to the OPTN Board in December 2019. Weighing of attributes will occur after the attributes are finalized and solidified. UNOS staff recommended that Workgroup members not give a definitive answer to the timeline, because the feedback from this public comment cycle will impact the project's next steps.

2. Regional Meeting Update

UNOS staff provided updated information regarding regional meeting prep-calls, and the meeting dates for each of the regional meetings. UNOS staff requested that members review their assigned prep-call meeting dates and notify staff if they will be unable to attend. Workgroup members will be expected to present during the thoracic breakout sessions, and at the full regional meetings. The breakout session comments will need to be summarized for the general session.

Upcoming Meeting

- August 15th