

## **OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

**August 21, 2019**

**Conference Call**

**Diane Brockmeier, RN, BSN, MHA, Chair**

**Kurt Shutterly, RN, CPTC, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPO Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 08/21/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Proposal to Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in Kidney Allocation Policy
2. Data Collection to Evaluate the Logistical Impact of Broader Distribution
3. Other Significant Items

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

#### **1. Proposal to Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in Kidney Allocation Policy**

The Kidney Transplantation Committee Chair presented this proposal that is currently out for public comment.

##### Summary of discussion:

One Committee member voiced support for the medical urgency classification process outlined in the proposal. Another member asked if the candidates within the medical urgency classification were ABO identical or compatible. Some OPOs open it up to compatible blood groups in order to provide an increased opportunity for medically urgent candidates. The Kidney Committee Chair noted that they did not specifically discuss this issue but appreciated the feedback. He noted that the intent was to keep the process similar to how it work currently within the blood groups.

One member expressed concern about the import process and the potential to not have enough samples for cross matching if the kidney needs to be reallocated. The Kidney Committee Chair appreciated the comment and again reiterated that the intent is to allow the flexibility to use the current process for local and import backup offers.

One member noted that the proposed process for import match runs will be an adjustment for some OPOs. This is due to the fact that it will no longer be just the importing OPO's geographically local centers because of the proposed 150 circle around the recipient hospital. The member also noted that the number of transplant hospitals within that 150 mile circle will vary across the country. The Kidney Committee Chair noted that they selected the smallest circle possible that still allowed for equity and sharing.

OPO Committee sentiment: 1 strongly support, 4 support, 1 neutral/abstain, and 1 oppose

#### **2. Data Collection to Evaluate the Logistical Impact of Broader Distribution**

The Operations and Safety Committee Vice-Chair presented this request for input that is currently out for public comment.

### Summary of discussion:

One member expressed support for collecting additional data on transportation in order to evaluate the impact of broader distribution. He noted that the data elements being proposed would not be a huge burden on OPOs. He also acknowledged that organ disposition times would present a challenge for OPOs to collect that information from the transplant hospitals.

There was a brief discussion about transplant hospital use of TransNet<sup>sm</sup> to help collect information on organ check-in times. The Operations and Safety Committee Vice-Chair noted there is currently no requirement for transplant hospitals to use TransNet. He also noted that there is inconsistent practices across organ types when it comes to checking in the organs. OPOs and transplant hospitals will have to work together to share information in order to collect this data.

### Next steps:

UNOS staff will distribute the list of questions to OPO Committee members in order to provide additional time to collect feedback that can be shared with the Operations and Safety Committee.

### **3. Other Significant Items**

- **Committee Charge** – The Committee briefly reviewed the committee charge and did not make any additional changes. UNOS staff provided an overview of the timeline for Executive Committee review, final Committee review, and approval by the Board of Directors.
- **Committee Orientation** – UNOS staff presented information as part of committee orientation. This included committee member expectations, meeting logistics, additional resources, active projects, and an overview of the policy development process.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- September 25, 2019 (Teleconference)
- October 10, 2019 (Richmond, VA)