

## **OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 21, 2019**

**Conference Call**

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

**Stacy McKean, RN, B.S.N., CPTC, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee met via teleconference on August 21, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Presentation: Expedited Placement of Livers
2. Public Comment Presentation: Modify Data Submission Policies
3. Minority Affairs Committee Workgroup
4. Best Practices Discussion
5. Project Updates

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

#### **1. Public Comment Presentation: Expedited Placement of Livers**

A representative of the OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee shared an update on their earlier proposal to facilitate the expedited placement of livers from deceased organ donors. This proposal originally sought public comment earlier in 2019 and revisions were needed based on feedback. A subsequent public comment cycle is being pursued to solicit feedback on the modifications.

#### Summary of discussion:

The speaker profiled the goals of this proposal as well as the themes identified in the last round of public comment in 2019. In light of this feedback, the current proposal includes:

- Identification of expedited placement candidates on the original liver match run intended to support OPO logistics/planning.
- Clarification that expedited placements will use the original match run with additional screening applied (versus a new match run type).
- Extends the response time to 30 minutes.

The speaker continued by providing a synopsis of the data illustrating the scope of the problem, elements of the proposed solution to the problem, potential impact on OPOs and liver transplant programs, OPTN implementation plan, and plan for monitoring the effectiveness of this proposal. The speaker closed by sharing the cross disciplinary team who made this proposal possible.

The Vice Chair thanked the speaker for the insightful presentation and opened the floor for questions. Committee members expressed their surprise at the number of occurrence when liver donation is authorized but the accepting transplant program declines the organ offer during procurement. The members agreed this proposal would 1) increase transparency, 2) increase equity in access to liver transplantation, 3) decrease the instances that donation is authorized but an organ not transplanted, and 4) increase liver transplants. They held a discussion inclusive of operational details of this proposal,

the clinical and logistical circumstances that may lead to expedited liver placement (visual inspection in-situ, liver pathology results, donor/potential transplant size mismatch that is more apparent in the operating room, or a liver from another deceased donor was accepted for the same potential transplant recipient), the need for guidance from the OPO Committee on managing logistical and communications issues for successful liver placement through this mechanism, and the intended post-implementation monitoring plan. The Committee supports this proposal, including monitoring of program acceptance practices at 12 months following implementation.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee members on the conference call participated in the sentiment polling for the proposal: 1 Strongly Support, 7 Support, 0 Neutral/Abstain, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will compile a summary of the Committee's feedback. A review by the Chair and Vice Chair will precede sharing this feedback with the OPO Committee. The feedback will also be posted on the OPTN website.

**2. Public Comment Presentation: Modify Data Submission Policies**

A representative of the OPTN Data Advisory Committee shared an update on their proposal to modify OPTN Policy 18 *Data Submission Requirements*.

Summary of discussion:

The speaker profiles the goals of this project:

- Addressing:
  - Concerns about quality of data reported to the OPTN due to unclear data submission deadlines and data changes made after submission
  - Questions about accuracy of data used by members and researchers for performance evaluations
- To improve confidence of research findings and organ allocation
- Growing recognition of OPTN data quality needs

The speaker continued by providing a synopsis of the data illustrating the scope of the problem, elements of the proposed solution to the problem (extended timelines for data submission, the addition of a "data lock", and additional resources for OPTN members to make their internal data quality reviews more effective and timely), potential impact on OPOs, transplant programs, and histocompatibility laboratories, the OPTN implementation plan, and plan for monitoring the effectiveness of this proposal.

The Vice Chair thanked the speaker for the insightful presentation and opened the floor for questions. Members discussed possible circumstances when data changes may be needed, the process of navigating data changes once the lock was initiated on a form, and whether there were validation steps required of a transplant program manager or administrator for data modifications following the data lock on a form. The speaker addressed all of the member question in detail. Members agreed the changes in the proposal would be helpful to the transplant community. Further, there would be greater clarity on deadlines for TIEDI® forms.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee members on the conference call participated in the sentiment polling for the proposal: 2 Strongly Support, 5 Support, 0 Neutral/Abstain, 0 Oppose, 0 Strongly Oppose.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will compile a summary of the Committee's feedback. A review by the Chair and Vice Chair will precede sharing this feedback with the Data Advisory Committee. The feedback will also be posted on the OPTN website.

**3. Minority Affairs Committee Workgroup**

This topic was tabled for a future conference call or meeting due to time constraints.

**4. Effective Practices Discussion**

The Chair and Vice Chair would like to embed a grass roots dialog about effective practices during future calls and meetings. The Vice Chair asked members to consider what challenges they have encountered at their respective transplant programs or OPOs and how their teams have overcome these challenges. This member discussion would be an effective mechanism for collaboration on the committee, and help identify potential topics for future TCC Learning Series Modules.

**5. Project Updates**

This topic was tabled for a future conference call or meeting due to time constraints.

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

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Third Wednesday of each month from 3-4 PM (Eastern)
- September 9, 2019 – In-person meeting in Richmond, VA (8 AM)-