

## **OPTN Policy Oversight Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2019**

**Conference Call**

**Alexandra Glazier, JD. MPH, Chair**  
**Nicole Turgeon, MD. FACS, Vice Chair**

### **Introduction**

The Policy Oversight Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on 08/22/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Setting Strategic Policy Priorities
2. New Project Review
3. OPTN Update

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

#### **1. Setting Strategic Policy Priorities**

The Chair reviewed the current status of the strategic policy priorities and the Committee voted on formalizing the recommendations to present to the Executive Committee.

##### Summary of discussion:

One member asked for clarification on which policy priorities were being voted on. The Chair responded that the three priorities are:

- More efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization
- Continuous Distribution
- Improved equity for multi-organ and single organ candidates

The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend those three strategic policy priorities to the Executive Committee. The Committee was unanimous in recommending. The Chair asked for members to email to volunteer for three workgroups based on the three strategic policy priorities. One member asked if the Chair would email to solicit volunteers to help members remember.

One member asked why the pediatric policy priority was not among the top three or two follow up priorities. The Chair responded that the votes were not particularly strong and that there was sentiment that pediatric concerns had been addressed already among other committees.

##### Next steps:

The Committee will refine recommendations and seek feedback from the Executive Committee in October.

#### **2. New Project Review**

The Committee reviewed the five projects up for potential approval.

##### Summary of discussion:

**Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), Socio-economic Status:**

One member commented that there is a lot of time and resources put into filling out the TIEDI forms by transplant staff and so the community would be wary to add additional fields to the current forms. The Vice Chair of the MAC responded that the committee would be sensitive to the burden of the data but acknowledged that currently the OPTN does not collect much data on the socio-economic status of candidates which makes it challenging to assess the equity of transplant access.

The Chair asked why the project does not address equity to transplant registration. The MAC Vice Chair responded that at the current moment the OPTN does not collect data on patients who are not listed and the MAC is constrained by that factor.

The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) Vice Chair spoke in support of the project and noted that the DAC is currently evaluating the data that is currently collected and supports collecting more socio-economic data. Another member spoke in support of the project and also indicated that while the issue of access to registration is significant that it is not something that is currently being undertaken as a policy priority and would not necessarily advise having this project wait for that priority to be taken up.

Another member spoke in concern of the financial cost of adding more fields to the registration forms. Another member wanted to note that the financial cost cannot currently be quantified as the project is only seeking approval for development without a solidified proposal that is going out for public comment.

The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend the project for approval. The vote was 58% recommend approval, 42% to provide feedback and send back to the committee. The project will move forward as approved.

#### **Histocompatibility Committee, Update to Equivalency Tables**

There was no comment from committee members. The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend the project for approval. The vote was unanimous recommend approval.

#### **Liver and Intestines Committee, NLRB Operational Guidelines Update**

One committee member suggested for involvement from the pediatric committee in this project as it develops. The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend the project for approval. The vote was unanimous recommend approval.

#### **Liver and Intestines Committee, Requirement for the Recovery of Non-Hepatic Abdominal Organs**

The MAC Vice Chair asked what is the extent of this problem as the member had not heard of this as a problem before where surgeons refuse to procure organs. In addition, the member was particularly worried about the sensitivity of procuring pancreas. The Liver Vice Chair spoke that this was a problem that they had experienced and is one that could grow with broader sharing. The member also noted that perhaps pancreas should be exempt from this guidance. Another member suggested this may be a regional concern and to consider the possibility of opt-in/opt-out.

The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend the project for approval. The vote was 91% recommend approval and 9% requesting more feedback from the committee.

#### **Operations and Safety, Considerations in ABO Testing**

The Chair wanted to respond to some feedback received on the survey that while this problem may happen infrequently that the problem is quite severe in nature. The Operations and Safety Chair noted that this project would be both a guidance document and policy change. The member noted that there was some discrepancies in practice as well as issues with indeterminate results.

The Committee took a vote on whether to recommend the project for approval. The vote was unanimous recommend approval.

Next steps:

These projects will be formally provided approval to develop as public comment proposals.

**3. OPTN Update**

A UNOS staff member provided an overview of public comment feedback on current public comment proposals and other OPTN updates.

Summary of Discussion:

One member asked for the general sentiment of the regions on the kidney and pancreas proposals. A UNOS staff member responded that region 7 generally approved and region 3 generally opposed the two proposals.

**Upcoming Meeting**

- September 18, 2019