

OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee

Meeting Summary

September 18, 2019

Conference Call

George Mazariegos, MD, Chair

Evelyn Hsu, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via teleconference on 09/18/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. DAC Public Comment Proposal – Modify Data Submission Policies
2. Pancreas Public Comment Proposal – Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in Pancreas Allocation Policy
3. Collaborative Improvement Project update
4. Pediatric Component Bylaws Update
5. Kidney Project Ideas

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

1. DAC Public Comment Proposal – Modify Data Submission Policies

The Vice Chair of the Data Advisory Committee presented their public comment proposal titled, "Modify Data Submission Policies."

Summary of discussion:

The Committee provided feedback on the proposal and posted a public comment to the OPTN website. The Committee's public comment is provided below:

"The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Data Advisory Committee's public comment proposal to modify data submission policies. The Pediatric Committee supports the DAC's efforts to improve data submission and quality. The Pediatric Committee Chair echoed the concerns raised at prior regional meetings that the extended data submission deadlines could cause delays in timely data submission. Another Pediatric Committee member asked if the proposal will be evaluated for its effectiveness on improving data submission timeliness and quality. The member also asked if the DAC has considered potential next steps to improve data submission and quality if the proposal does not work as intended. The member was concerned that the extended deadlines would not be effective in improving timely data submission and that forms would still be incomplete. Despite these concerns, the Pediatric Committee supports the proposal to modify data submission policies."

Next steps:

No next steps were discussed.

2. Pancreas Public Comment Proposal – Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in Pancreas Allocation Policy

The Chair of the Pancreas Transplantation Committee presented their public comment proposal titled, “Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region in pancreas allocation policy.”

Summary of discussion:

The Committee provided feedback on the proposal and posted a public comment on the OPTN website. The Committee’s public comment is provided below:

“The OPTN Pediatric Transplantation Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Pancreas Transplantation Committee’s proposal to eliminate the use of DSA and Region from pancreas allocation. A Committee member was concerned with the projected increase in kidney-pancreas transplants as a result of both the kidney and pancreas proposals. The Committee member noted that the increase in transplant count that was modelled for pediatric candidates was caused by broader distribution, not the increase in pediatric priority in Sequence A or Sequence B. The Committee member also stated that transplant programs may not be as willing to accept marginal organs from farther distances due to increased likelihood of delayed graft function, so the projected increase in transplant count may not play out as modelled. The primary concern of the Pediatric Committee, which is also noted on the kidney proposal, is that there are currently areas of the country where pediatric candidates are disadvantaged due to increased priority for kidney-pancreas candidates. The Committee is concerned that this proposal, as well as the kidney proposal, will increase this disadvantage for pediatric candidates. The Committee encourages the Pancreas Committee to consider if the current priority for kidney-pancreas candidates is appropriate, but recognizes that this consideration may be out of the scope of this project. In response to the Pancreas Committees proposed solution for local backup, a Committee member stated that it makes more sense to have the host OPO continue to hold responsibility for allocating the organ. The Pediatric Committee supports the Pancreas Committee’s proposal to remove DSA and Region from pancreas allocation and looks forward to working with the Pancreas Committee to address the concerns included above.”

Next steps:

The Committee will continue to advocate for increased priority for pediatric candidates in kidney and pancreas allocation.

3. Collaborative Improvement Project Update

The Committee has been working with the UNOS Organizational Excellence (OE) Department on a collaborative improvement (CI) project.

Summary of discussion:

During a previous call, UNOS OE staff recommended that the CI project topic should be related to the use of increased risk organs. However, the definition of PHS increased risk will be changing so UNOS staff are now recommending a project related to organ offer acceptance for pediatric patients. UNOS staff then informed the Committee about the timeline for the project.

The Chair noted that the Committee would be willing to provide expertise and guidance whenever it needed. UNOS staff clarified that the project will be pediatric-specific.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will continue to update the Committee on the status of the project.

4. Pediatric Component Bylaws Update

Summary of discussion:

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) clarified some aspects of the implementation plan for the pediatric component bylaws. The Committee heard an update on the most recent interpretation of the implementation plan.

Next steps:

No next steps were discussed.

5. Kidney Project Ideas

Pediatric Committee members have raised concerns related to the current proposals to remove the use of DSA and region from kidney and pancreas allocation. Committee members presented potential project ideas related to these concerns.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members discussed two areas to improve kidney allocation for pediatric patients. The two areas were providing additional priority for pediatric candidates in sequence C and revising KDPI.

Next steps:

The Committee will discuss the projects at their next meeting in October.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 15, 2019 – Chicago, Illinois
- November 20, 2019 - Teleconference