

OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2019

Conference Call

Silke Niederhaus, MD, Chair

Rachel Forbes, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix teleconference on 9/18/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Update for Kidney and Pancreas Proposals
2. Continuous Distribution of Lungs Concept Paper: Thoracic Committee Proposal
3. Modify Data Submission Policies: Data Advisory Committee Proposal
4. Expedited Placement of Livers: Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee Proposal

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

1. Public Comment Update for Kidney and Pancreas Proposals

A UNOS staff member gave an update regarding public comment feedback on the two proposals to remove DSA and region from kidney and pancreas allocation.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair noted that the community has been concerned about the proposed solution for pancreas although members seem more concerned about the kidney proposal. Their region was more open to a smaller circle for kidney while maintaining a larger circle for pancreas due to the different issues for the two organs. The Chair noted that there was varied sentiment among the regions and expressed a desire to analyze it at the in-person meeting in October.

The Vice Chair added that while they had not yet attended their regional meeting, they already knew that several outspoken members opposed the proposal. The Vice Chair also noted that some feedback from patients was supportive of the proposal, broader distribution in general and minimizing the effects of geography on transplant access. On the other hand, many organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and histocompatibility labs expressed opposition due to concerns about an increased logistical burden.

The Committee discussed the opposition to a 500 NM circle and that there seems to be more support for a smaller circle for kidney and pancreas. A member reflected that if pancreas were to consider a smaller circle that there may be more community support.

Next steps:

The Committee will review public comment feedback during their next teleconference call on October 16th.

2. Continuous Distribution of Lungs Concept Paper: Thoracic Committee Proposal

A UNOS staff member gave an overview of the Thoracic Committee's current public comment proposal.

Summary of discussion:

One member asked whether patients with O-blood type would have longer waiting times should the system encourage incompatible blood types. The UNOS presenter explained that the Thoracic Transplantation Committee has considered multiple different approaches to points awarded by ABO. They have considered awarding points based on compatibility as well as difficult-to-match blood types.

The Chair commented in support overall for the proposal and expressed a desire to see what the actual weight and values that would be placed on criteria. The Chair recognizes that all organ systems will be moving toward this type of system. The UNOS presenter affirmed that the committee is taking a very deliberate approach to this concept as they recognize that this may set precedent regarding a continuous distribution framework for other organ systems. The UNOS presenter explained that during the course of the committee's analysis they found the decision regarding priority points for different criteria was not a clinical or statistical question but rather one regarding values in an allocation system.

Another committee member commented that many of the criteria appeared to be non-linear, such as cPRA due to the fact that the difficulty of matching lower level cPRA is not consistent with the difference with high cPRA. The committee member looks forward to seeing how these criteria are ultimately weighted. The UNOS presenter agreed that some criteria are non-linear and some are categorical which will impact the manner in which they are weighed.

One committee member asked if this framework and criteria would be applied inside or outside of a circle based system. A UNOS staff member explained that the continuous distribution framework actually would replace a circle based system entirely.

The Committee took a sentiment vote with the following results: 36% strongly support, 36% support, 18% neutral/abstain and 9% oppose.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback will be synthesized and submitted as a public comment on the OPTN public comment site.

3. Modify Data Submission Policies: Data Advisory Committee Proposal

The Vice Chair of the OPTN Data Advisory Committee presented an overview of the public comment proposal.

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion for this agenda item. The Committee took a sentiment vote with the following results: 44% strongly support, 33% support, 11% neutral/abstain and 11% oppose.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback will be synthesized and submitted as a public comment on the OPTN public comment site.

4. Expedited Placement of Livers: Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee Proposal

The Chair of the OPTN OPO Committee presented the public comment proposal and answered questions.

Summary of discussion:

The Chair commented that there could be logistical challenges with the volume of centers that are included in the expedited placement of liver process and suggested the OPO Committee consider some of the ideas of the facilitated pancreas program as the two policies both share a goal of more efficient

placement. However, the Chair acknowledged that the organs are very different in terms of procurement and overall they supported the proposal's approach.

The committee took a sentiment vote with the following results: 50% strongly support, 17% support, and 33% neutral/abstain.

Next steps:

The Committee's feedback will be synthesized and submitted as a public comment on the OPTN public comment site.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 16, 2019 (teleconference)
- October 23, 2019 (Chicago, IL)

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Michelle Goble
 - Tarek Alhamad
 - Doni Bell
 - Daniel Keys
 - Silke Niederhaus
 - Jeffery Steers
 - Piotr Witkowski
 - Muhammad Yaqub
 - Rachel Forbes
 - Liise Kayler
 - David Scott
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Sally Gustafson
 - Nick Salkowski
 - Ajay Israni
- **UNOS Staff**
 - James Alcorn
 - Matt Cafarella
 - Rebecca Lehman
 - Kerrie Masten
 - Elizabeth Miller
 - Sara Moriarty
 - Joel Newman
 - Abigail Fox
 - Ross Walton
 - Kiana Stewart
 - Eric Messick
- **Other Attendees**
 - Diane Brockmeier
 - Rachel Patzer
 - Oyedalamu Olaitan