

**OPTN Kidney Organ Transplantation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019
Conference Call**

**Nicole Turgeon, MD, Chair
Vincent Casingal, MD, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Kidney Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 05/20/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. En Bloc Kidney Clarification
2. Kidney-Pancreas Board Report Review
3. Geography Next Steps

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

1. En Bloc Kidney Clarification

The Chair informed the Committee of a clarification of the en bloc kidney policy.

Data summary:

The Chair explained the en bloc kidney policy language needed to be updated to clarify that split en bloc kidneys must be allocated as single organs. UNOS staff identified the language as written could be misinterpreted to conclude that split en bloc kidneys must continue to be allocated down an en bloc match run. Because split kidneys cannot physically be offered en bloc, OPTN Policy 8.6.C: *Transplanting Kidneys Individually after Allocation of Both Kidneys from a Single Deceased Donor to a Single Candidate* has been clarified to state that en bloc kidneys, once split, can no longer be offered en bloc.

The Chair explained this clarification provides clearer guidance on the distribution of en bloc kidneys once they are split and thereby no longer medically considered en bloc. Furthermore, the clarification will prevent potential discards that could have resulted from distribution inefficiencies if split kidneys had been required to adhere to en bloc allocation policies.

Next steps:

The clarification was approved by the Board of Director's Policy Group and will move forward to the June Board of Directors meeting. The new en bloc policy is scheduled to be implemented in the third quarter of 2019. System changes will be made to reflect this clarification prior to implementation with no expected delay. The policy language will be clarified to the OPTN community via a policy notice.

UNOS IT staff added for the upcoming implementation of dual kidney policy, they are conducting some beta testing with organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to add a bypass button to UNet to prevent a delay in offers of dual kidneys.

2. Kidney-Pancreas Board Report Review

The Chair gave the Committee an overview of the report going to the OPTN Board of Directors on the *Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region from Kidney and Pancreas Allocation Policy* project.

Data summary:

The report will provide the OPTN Board members with a summary of the Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup's (the Workgroup) deliberations that led to the spring 2019 *Eliminate the Use of DSA and Region from Kidney and Pancreas Allocation Policy* Concept Paper. The report also reviews public comment analysis, related Workgroup discussions, and how public feedback informed the second Kidney-Pancreas Simultaneous Allocation Modeling (KPSAM) data request. Finally the report outlines the Workgroup's next steps for fall 2019 Public Comment.

Summary of discussion:

A Committee member asked who is included in the Workgroup and what the Committee's role will be in choosing the model to include in the fall 2019 proposal. The Chair clarified the Workgroup is comprised of representatives of both the Kidney and Pancreas Committees as well as stakeholders from the Pediatric, Minority Affairs, and Organ Procurement Organization Committees. The Kidney and Pancreas Committees will separately make the final decision on which frameworks to propose for their respective organ types.

A Committee member asked if the recent developments with liver allocation has had any effect on the Kidney-Pancreas project timeline. UNOS staff assured the Committee the project work will continue to move forward with an emphasis on being transparent while engaging as many stakeholders as possible.

3. Geography Next Steps

UNOS staff gave the Committee an overview of the Workgroup's strategy going forward and stakeholder communication plan.

Next steps:

The Workgroup will meet at the end of May to further discuss how each of the modeled variations align with the OPTN Final Rule. The KPSAM modeling is expected mid-June which will be followed by separate Kidney and Pancreas Committee meetings to include stakeholders from the OPO, Pediatrics and Minority Affairs committees. The Workgroup and committees will meet numerous times throughout July to review variations and finalize their policy solutions for fall 2019 proposals. Community webinars are also being developed for the end of June to early July to educate the community about the findings of the second KPSAM request, inform the community about deliberations from the in-person meetings, and to listen to community feedback and concerns to help inform on-going committee deliberations.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 17, 2019 – Teleconference
- June 25, 2019 - Baltimore

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Robert Bray
 - Vincent Casingal
 - Valinda Jones
 - Mary Killackey
 - Lisa Matthias
 - Ernesto Molmenti
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Fuad Shihab
 - Nicole Turgeon
 - Andrew Weiss
 - Jason Wellen
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Joyce Hager
- **SRTR Staff**
 - Katie Audette
 - Sally Gustafson
 - Bert Kasiske
 - Bryn Thompson
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Scott Castro
 - Jill Finnie
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Leah Slife
 - Wes Stein
 - Amber Wilk
 - Nicole Benjamin
- **Other Attendees**
 - Jim Kim
 - Cathi Murphey
 - Dierdre Sawinski
 - Erica Simonich