

OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2019

Conference Call

Vince Casingal, MD, Chair
Martha Pavlakis, MD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPTN Kidney Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 10/07/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Public Comment Overview and Discussion
2. Kidney-Paired Donation (KPD) Priority Points Discussion

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

1. Public Comment Overview and Discussion

The Committee reviewed the sentiment received from community feedback, regional meetings, and committee meetings regarding public comment documents. Regional representatives on the call also gave their impressions of their region's feedback.

The key takeaways are:

- Questions about standards for medical urgency and how import back up would function
- Concerns about:
 - Accountability for individual OPO performance
 - Increased cost or logistical challenges
 - Modeling not including impact on cost or logistics
 - Increased flying and dependence on commercial flights
 - Potential center level impact
 - Potential for increased discards
 - Circle size
 - Use of proximity points
 - Pediatric priority

Discussion:

Committee leadership fostered discussion among the committee members based on the feedback received through Public Comment. The Committee discussed options moving forward and the possibility of modifying the proposal to a smaller 250 nautical mile (NM) circle size. The Committee discussed how the smaller circle size would help negate some of the logistical concerns expressed in the community. The OPO Representative and other committee members feel reducing the circle size to 250NM would be a less disruptive initial step toward continuous distribution and would limit the number of organs flown versus driven while still meeting the goal of more equitable access according to many of the metrics shown in the modeling. The committee will discuss justification of moving from a 500NM proposal to a 250NM.

Next steps:

The Committee will meet in Chicago on October 21 to continue discussions on the proposal going to the Board in December. Committee members were encouraged to submit any specific questions or discussion points regarding the proposal ahead of time so resources can be made available.

2. Kidney-Paired Donation (KPD) Priority Points Discussion

The Committee considered a clarification to the OPTN Kidney-Paired Donation (KPD) policy. The Board-approved language does not explicitly address how prioritization points will be awarded for candidates who have multiple paired donors with different blood types. Candidates who have more than one paired donor are not considered difficult-to-match candidates since having more than one paired increases the likelihood of finding suitable matches. This clarification would add a sentence to policy that furthers the goal of the policy, prioritizing difficult-to-match candidates, by specifying that blood type points are awarded to candidates based on their paired donor who has the blood type associated with the fewest points in the KPD policy.

Vote:

Should the KPD Clarification Be Sent to the OPTN Executive Committee for Consideration?

Yes – 100%

No – 0%

Next Steps

The policy clarification will go to the OPTN Executive Committee for consideration.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 21, 2019 – Chicago, IL
- November 18, 2019 - Teleconference

Attendance

- **Committee Members**
 - Vince Casingal
 - Mark Earl
 - Joe Ferreira
 - Ajay Israni
 - Valinda Jones
 - Jim Kim
 - Lisa Matthias
 - Martha Pavlakis
 - Nick Salkowski
 - Dierdre Sawinski
 - Erica Simonich
 - Julia Steinke
 - Nicole Turgeon
- **HRSA Representatives**
 - Jim Bowman
 - Marilyn Levi
- **UNOS Staff**
 - Scott Castro
 - Craig Connors
 - Shannon Edwards
 - Jill Finnie
 - Abby Fox
 - Chelsea Haynes
 - Lindsay Larkin
 - Ruthanne Leishman
 - Jason Livingston
 - Tina Rhoades
 - Liz Robbins Callahan
 - Tynisha Smith
 - Susie Sprinson
 - Wes Stein
 - Kiana Stewart
 - Susan Tlusty
 - Read Urban
 - Ross Walton
 - Amber Wilk
- **Other Attendees**
 - Mike Hall
 - Alyson Lewis
 - Steven Potter