OPTN/UNOS Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2018
Teleconference Call

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Introduction

The Kidney-Pancreas Workgroup (the Workgroup) met via teleconference on 08/07/2018 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Liver Committee Geography Proposal Overview
2. Preliminary Kidney Geography Research Findings
3. Geography Recommendations and Discussion

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

1. Liver Committee Geography Proposal Overview

The call began with a brief recap on the board-approved principles of distribution and a reminder of our task: to remove DSA and regions from kidney allocation policy.

UNOS Staff provided an overview on the liver committees timeline, deliberative process, requirements for SRTR modeling, and framework justifications.

2. Preliminary Kidney Geography Research Findings

Next, UNOS staff presented preliminary research data that could help inform a workgroup decision on the size of concentric circles. Staff noted that there are several caveats to the data as they are based on the current system of allocation. Data included Cold Ischemic Times (CITs), CITs by Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI), travel distances, travel distances vs. CITs, and others. Workgroup members posed several questions about the data and their limitations.

3. Geography Recommendations and Discussion

Next, kidney leadership led a discussion about circle size recommendations. They began the conversation with two proposed sizes for a two-circle system: smaller circles sizes were 150nm and 300nm and larger circle sizes were 500nm and 800nm. UNOS staff displayed some national maps that illustrated these circles around current transplant centers. This initiated a discussion about the disparities small circles would create for mid-western and western regions, especially Region 6. The region 6 representative raised concerns that Alaska currently receives local offers from Seattle and that would not be the case under a concentric circle model with a small local circle. Leadership noted this concern and re-iterated that these kinds of problems could be discussed post-modeling.

The workgroup discussed narrowing down sizes of circles. A number of circle sizes suggested, randging from 75NM to 3000NM. UNOS staff reminded workgroup members that both the number of circles chosen and the size of each concentric circle would need to be justified by a principle of distribution and grounded in evidence based on the OPTN Final Rule. In the end, three small circle sizes and three large circle sizes were offered:

Small circle sizes:
75nm
150nm
350nm

Large circle sizes
350nm
500nm
800nm

The call ended with a suggestion to KP members to have discussion on the six proposed circle sizes on the KP workgroup Basecamp site and that discussion and a vote on a small and large circle size would occur on the following KP workgroup call.