

**OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee
Meeting Summary
October 24, 2019
Conference Call**

**Sharon Klarman, RN-BC, B.S.N., CCTC, Chair
Stacy McKean, RN, B.S.N., CPTC, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee met via teleconference on October 24, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Socioeconomic Status Work Group (OPTN Minority Affairs Committee)
2. Committee Charge update
3. TCC learning series update
4. Living Donor Committee Social Media Guidance update

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

1. Socioeconomic Status Work Group (OPTN Minority Affairs Committee)

A representative for the OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) provided an overview of a new data collection initiative on transplant patient socioeconomic status.

Summary of discussion:

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) is currently working on an initiative to better capture the socioeconomic status (SES) of transplant patients. The goals of this project are:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of potential SES disparities in access to transplant for candidates with low SES background.
- Identify opportunities for improved program practices or policy changes to address the problem.

The current OPTN data on the topic is limited and MAC is proposing require submission of data to the OPTN on the number of people in the household and household income. This would enable calculation of household poverty status.

Other OPTN Committees have been engaged early in the development process and their feedback has been very helpful. MAC sought the same from TCC. The Chair expressed her appreciation for the update and opened the floor for discussion. Members shared several points including:

- General sensitivity of individuals to discuss personal income.
- Potential for individuals to over/under report income out of concern for impacting transplant registration or financial assistance. This could impact trust in the transplant system and raise concerns for preferential treatment.
- The dynamic nature of income for individuals with different stages of chronic illness.
- Transplant programs generally collect this information, but the format is likely not standardized.
- The use of electronic medical records (EMRs) in hospitals and outpatient settings may present challenges for collecting the right level of information for the OPTN.

The Committee general agreed this would be useful information, but the concerns mentioned by TCC and other groups would need to be addressed. Members share ideas of patients self-reporting their income electronically to the OPTN, and the use of income ranges in reporting to reduce concerns of sharing information on personal income. The latter may increase patient willingness to participate and data accuracy.

Next steps:

Committee members interested in assisting with the project development are encouraged to contact UNOS staff.

2. Committee Charge update

The Committee discussed modifications to their charge.

Summary of discussion:

The new OPTN contract requires all committees to examine their respective charges and update as needed to reflect their scope of work. TCC members were provided with the existing charge during their August 2019 in-person meeting and asked to share elements that would be in keeping with their scope of work. Numerous suggestions were shared and the charge was modified at this meeting.

The OPTN Executive Committee reviewed all of the amended committee charges during their October 8, 2019 call and provided feedback to the index committees. The feedback to TCC was in general agreement with the draft charge. Further, the Executive Committee encouraged the Committee to embed active descriptions in lieu of passive descriptions. The Committee was appreciative of this input and discussed ways to incorporate this information. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the charge as amended during the call. The motion was unanimously approved (yes-13, no-0, abstain-0). The Committee recommended the following charge be considered by the OPTN Board of Directors at their December 2019 meeting:

The OPTN Transplant Coordinators Committee provides recommendations to OPTN Committees and the OPTN Board of Directors to improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of procurement and transplant coordination. With an expertise in operational efficiency, the Transplant Coordinators Committee offers feedback on proposed policies and bylaws, including the impact on implementation, the development of education for transplant coordinators, and the care of candidates, recipients, living donors, and their families.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will forward the modified charge to colleagues for inclusion in the Board meeting materials. An update will be provided after the Board meeting in December.

3. TCC Learning Series Update

The Committee heard an update from members collaborating with UNOS Professional Education staff on the development of the next Learning Series modules.

Summary of discussion:

Committee members reported that working calls have been held to develop the next e-learning series module that is targeted to transplant coordinators. Initial discussions identified the need for education on OPTN Site Survey Preparedness. Over the course of discussion, members noted value in separate modules addressing 1) transplant program preparedness, and 2) OPO preparedness. As a result of this distinction, the module on transplant program preparedness will be developed with targeted

deployment in December 2019. The module on OPO preparedness will be developed thereafter with targeted deployment in February 2020.

Members then reported on the development of the third e-learning series module to address OPTN Policy Development. This will follow the OPO preparedness module and is targeted for deployment in May 2020.

The Chair thanked the members assisting with this project. Members expressed their anticipation for the final product, adding these would meet a bona fide need in the transplant community.

Next steps:

Working group calls are scheduled to continue during the development timeline. Subject matter experts from OPOs will be needed to assist with the second module. Updates on this initiative will be provided at future conference calls and meetings.

4. Living Donor Committee Social Media Guidance update

An update was provided on the OPTN Liver Donor Committee's guidance on the use of social media to recruit potential living organ donors.

Summary of discussion:

One Committee member has been detailed to a working group with the Living Donor Committee to develop OPTN guidance on the use of social media to recruit potential living organ donors. An on-line survey was developed and provided to transplant programs in order to gain insight into their practices and report their respective experiences. This survey closed in recent weeks with very good participation and feedback. The draft guidance is currently being revised with a target of December 2019 for a final draft.

The Chair expressed her appreciation for this update and for representing the Committee for the duration of this project.

Next steps:

Updates on this initiative will be provided at future conference calls and meetings. The Committee will have the opportunity to review the guidance submitted for public comment and provide feedback.

With no further business to discuss, the call was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- Third Wednesday of each month from 3-4 PM (Eastern)
- In-person meeting – February 26, 2020 (Chicago, IL)