

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019

Teleconference

Diane Brockmeier, RN, BSN, MHA, Chair

Kurt Shutterly, RN, CPTC, Vice Chair

Introduction

The OPO Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 11/20/2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Import Backup Workgroup Update
2. Policy Oversight Committee Update – Policy Priority Discussions

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

1. Import Backup Workgroup Update

The Committee received an update on the Import Backup project.

Summary of discussion:

During the Fall Public Comment cycle, the Kidney and Pancreas Committees had proposed solutions regarding import backup. The post-public comment feedback on import backup was mixed, with no clear consensus on how to move forward on this specific process in time for the December 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The Kidney and Pancreas Committees made the decision to take additional time to assess the solution for import backup and send it back out for public comment. Both the Kidney and Pancreas Committee Leadership agreed that the OPO Committee had more expertise when it comes to the import backup process and agreed that the OPO Committee should lead this project.

To date, the Import Backup Workgroup has met twice. The Committee reviewed the current import backup policy. The goal of the Workgroup is to identify a solution to make import back up compliant with the policy changes that will remove Donation Service Area (DSA) and Region from kidney and pancreas allocation. If approved by the OPTN Board, the implementation plan for the kidney and pancreas proposals is for the kidney and pancreas allocation policies to be implemented by December 2020.

The Committee reviewed the proposed import backup solutions that the Workgroup reviewed and discussed. Some of the import backup options would not affect the projected December 2020 timeline for the kidney and pancreas allocation proposals while others will affect the timeline due to additional programming that would be required.

The Committee Chair provided a summary of the Workgroup's discussion so far. Most of the Workgroup members agreed that the host OPO should remain responsible for the continued allocation and the import backup circle will remain at 250 nautical miles (NM).

A member asked how many kidneys are reallocated after the original import recipient turns down the organ. The Committee Chair stated that this was less than 10%. This information would be checked on for confirmation and follow up on this question.

Another member stated that currently at their local OPO, a local list is run and it works very well. The proposed changes as discussed by the Workgroup would change the process and there was some concern of this loss of control.

The Committee Chair stated that the Workgroup had discussions around local backup and how there are different interpretations across the country. The concern was that with more kidneys traveling greater distances, there might be uncertainty with another center following through on the process. There was a strong consensus among the Workgroup to have the host OPO maintain responsibility for the process.

The Workgroup will hold its next meeting on November 20, 2019, and will have two meetings after that. During the scheduled December 18, 2019 OPO Committee conference call, the plan is to have the Committee review and vote on proposed policy language for import backups.

Since the OPO Committee will be sponsoring the project, Committee members will be responsible to present the public comment proposal during the regional meetings in the winter. The Committee reviewed the Spring 2020 regional meeting dates. UNOS staff noted that there will be prep calls for these presentations before the regional meetings start and the Committee members will be updated as the development of the proposal progresses over the next month.

Next Steps:

- The Committee will be updated on the import backup proposal and will vote on the proposal during the December 18th full Committee call.

2. Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Update – Policy Priority Discussions

The Committee received a Policy Oversight Committee (POC) update and discussed policy priorities.

Summary of discussion:

On November 5, 2019, POC Leadership sent a memo to the leadership of all OPTN Committees seeking feedback on the following proposed policy themes and priorities:

- Efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization
 - o Expedited Placement
 - o Safety Net
 - o Local Backups
- Continuous distribution
- Improved equity for multi-organ and single organ candidates

The POC recommended assigning the improved equity for multi-organ and single organ candidate theme to the OPO Committee. The Committee reviewed the timelines for each POC theme. UNOS staff noted that the OPTN Ethics Committee previously developed a multi-organ white paper during the 2018 Fall Public Comment Cycle. The OPO will be working on how this should be addressed in policy.

The Vice Chair stated that when getting into the other organs (except kidney), such as lung/liver or heart/liver, the Committee would need some guidance, but this is a project that the Committee could address.

The Committee Chair stated that a Workgroup will be formed. The Workgroup would consist of members from organ-specific committee to ensure that their input is provided during the development of this project. The Committee Chair added that insight from members with clinical background would be helpful as well.

UNOS staff also noted that the OPO Committee's Review of DCD Policy and Review of Deceased Donor Registration (DDR) Form projects were approved by POC. There was some discussion about possibly delaying some of the Committee's projects or including other OPTN Committees on the Workgroups to help with the work on these projects.

A tentative timeline of the Committee's projects were shared with members:

- Import Backup (Jan 2020 public comment)
- DCD Policy Review (Aug 2020 public comment)
- Multi-Organ Policy (August 2020 or Jan 2021 public comment)
- DDR Review (Jan 2021 public comment)

The Committee members were reminded that as continuous distribution and other projects are being developed, the OPO Committee would be actively involved in that work. This would also add to the workload of the Committee.

A member asked if Workgroup members needed to be a part of the OPO Committee. UNOS staff noted that occasionally subject matter experts (SMEs) are invited to participate on workgroups in order to provide specific expertise. Additionally, members who have rotated off of the Committee while working on a project are able to continue their work on the projects they were working on prior to their term ending.

There were no additional comments or questions. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Steps:

- The Committee will prioritize their projects and begin forming a workgroup for the Multi-organ policy project.

Upcoming Meeting

- December 18, 2019 (Teleconference)

