

**OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019
Conference Call**

**Silke Niederhaus, Chair, MD
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Introduction

The OPTN Pancreas Transplantation Committee (the Committee) met by teleconference on November 20, 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Kidney- Pancreas (KP) Project Removing Donor Service Area (DSA)/Region Update
2. Import Backup Update

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

1. Kidney- Pancreas (KP) Project Removing DSA/Region Update

The Committee discussed the status of the project. Members were asked to vote on the removal of language that treats Alaskan donors as from the Seattle Tacoma Airport (SeaTac). The removal of this language would give the public more time to provide feedback on this change. The proposed changes would go out for public comment in the Spring of 2020. It would be implemented on the same timeline as the removal of DSA/region from pancreas allocation.

Summary of discussion:

A member asked about Hawaii and Puerto Rico donors and wanted to know if a similar system to SeaTac would be implemented in order to establish consistency in the system from a logistical standpoint. A major difference is that Hawaii and Puerto Rico have transplant programs that can accept organs procured in those areas, whereas Alaska does not. Another member noted that Hawaii has flights to all major cities, so transporting organs may be easier. Members agreed that more discussion from the public is needed.

The Committee was asked, "Do you support removing the Alaskan allocation administrative rule from the proposal in order that it can receive community feedback during the OPTN Spring 2020 Public Comment period?"

Vote: Yes: 100%- 10 members, No: 0%- 0 members

Next Steps:

The modified proposal will be reviewed by the OPTN Board of Directors on December 3, 2019.

2. Import Backup Update

The Committee discussed the status of the Import Backup Workgroup (the Workgroup) now sponsored by the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) committee.

Summary of discussion:

A member felt that discards may increase if the reallocation was turned over to a second OPO. The Import Backup Workgroup is considering modifying policy so the host OPO retains responsibility.

On the November 14, 2019 Workgroup call members voiced that the circle should originate around the accepting center, that the host OPO should run the match, and that this reallocation circle should be 250 nautical miles (NM) with proximity points.

Members felt that the 250 NM import backup circle was too large for pancreata, as many of these organs will already have a significant amount of Cold Ischemic Time (CIT). Another member agreed that the 250 NM circle size was too large for pancreata, especially because they cannot take as much cold time as kidneys can. This member thought the 250 NM circle size would result in an increased rate of discards. A member said that the best chance for back up pancreata to be utilized is to allocate it within the same center. This member favored keeping pancreata in close proximity to the area it is being reallocated from and suggested the Workgroup consider a smaller reallocation circle. A member noted that OPOs have different sizes and different resources, meaning that some OPOs may not be able to handle some back up reallocations. They added that having the host OPO retain responsibility for the organ would be the most efficient option.

Next Steps:

The Import Backup Workgroup will receive an update on the Pancreas Committee's feedback. Members of the Import Backup Workgroup will keep the Committee informed on reallocation discussions.

Upcoming Meetings

- December 18, 2019 (teleconference)
- January 15, 2019 (teleconference)