

Guidance and Policy Modifications Addressing Blood Type Determination

OPTN Operations and Safety Committee

Background

- Recent events related to patient safety led to re-evaluation of current practices and policy requirements
- Current OPTN policy requires host OPOs to develop and comply with written protocols to resolve conflicting blood type results
 - Does not address indeterminate blood type results
 - Does not address testing methods or additional factors that can affect blood typing results

Background (continued)

- Workgroup was formed and comprised of:
 - OPTN Committees: Operations and Safety, Membership and Professional Standards, Organ Procurement Organization, Histocompatibility
 - Blood bank experts
- OPTN Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC) provided recommendations
 - Further guidance would be beneficial
 - Take a more holistic approach, not limit focus on massive transfusions
- Committee agreed to propose policy language modifications and develop a guidance document

Purpose of Policy Proposal

- Increase patient safety
- Include additional requirements that promote awareness and updates of written protocols to address indeterminate blood type results
- Does not specify comprehensive list of information that should be included in protocols and procedures for OPOs or transplant programs
- The accompanying guidance document provides additional considerations and methodologies that can be used as a resource to address indeterminate or conflicting blood type results

Policy Proposal

- Requirement to address indeterminate blood typing results in written protocols
- Requirement for documentation of all available blood products received since admission to the hospital
- Alignment of deceased donor, candidate, and living donor policies
 - OPTN Policy 2.6: Deceased Donor Blood Type Determination and Reporting
 - OPTN Policy 3.3: Candidate Blood Type Determination and Reporting before Waiting List Registration
 - OPTN Policy 14.5: Living Donor Blood Type Determination and Reporting

Member Implementation

- OPOs
 - Update their written protocols to address both indeterminate and conflicting blood typing results
 - Continue to document that blood type determination was conducted according to the written protocols
 - Document all blood products received by the donor since admission to the donor hospital
- Transplant Programs
 - Update their written protocols to address both indeterminate and conflicting blood typing results for candidates and living donors

Purpose of Guidance Document

- Increase patient safety
- Alert OPOs of triggers and other factors that could cause blood type discrepancies
- Identify alternative methods of blood typing
- Provide best practice processes to address conflicting and indeterminate blood type results
- This guidance document is not a policy proposal; the accompanying proposal addresses related policy changes

Guidance Document

- Conventional Methods of ABO Determination
- Factors Impacting Blood Typing Reliability
- Acceptable Blood Type and Transfusion Sources
- Alternative (new) Testing Methods for Determination of Blood Type: DNA-Based Determination of Blood Type*
- Triggers for When to Use Alternative Methods
- Practices to Resolve Donor Blood Type Conflicts

* Appendix with additional information on DNA-Based Determination of ABO included

Questions?