

OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (MAC)

Meeting Summary

January 13, 2020

Conference Call

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Introduction

The OPTN Minority Affairs Committee (the Committee) met by teleconference on January 13, 2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. New Project Ideas
2. Regional Meeting Slides
3. OPTN Materials Document Library

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

1. New Project Ideas

The Committee discussed ideas for their next project. They showed interest in the following ideas at a previous meeting:

- Analysis of post- geographic allocation data for lung, liver and kidney, six and one year data.
- Analysis of discard rates, decline codes and one- year graft outcomes.
- Analysis of MELD as an indicator of sickness. Is MELD a good indicator of sickness for all racial/ethnic populations or are certain groups not accurately represented by MELD?
- Analysis of the racial makeup of the kidney waiting list. Are minorities proportionally disadvantaged, potentially by Multi- Organ Transplant (MOT)?

Summary of discussion:

The Committee decided to not pursue the "Analysis of post- geographic allocation data for lung, liver and kidney, six and one year data" because as of now only lung data is available. As data for other organs become available, the respective organ- centered committees will complete this analysis.

A member suggested that the committee may want to pass on the, "Analysis of discard rates, decline codes and one- year graft outcomes" idea. They reported that the reason a surgeon declines an organ can be multifactorial and specific but the way the decline code system is set up does not allow for the collection of this granular data. This member would not recommend using this data for analysis.

The committee is interested in the "Analysis of MELD as an indicator of sickness. Is MELD a good indicator of sickness for all racial/ethnic populations or are certain groups not accurately represented by MELD?" idea. Members felt this project was of value because just one or two MELD points can change a candidate's fate. This project may call for collaboration with the Liver Committee. The Committee is also interested in the "Analysis of the racial makeup of the kidney waiting list. Are minorities proportionally disadvantaged, potentially by Multi- Organ Transplant (MOT)?" idea. A member suggested that this idea felt the most clear and tangible.

Members were invited to introduce any other new project ideas. A member suggested examining the relationship between living donation and race. They asked if minority races were turned down more frequently from being living donors.

UNOS staff reported that they will work to find out which of these projects have suitable data for analysis. They will investigate if any of these projects have been done before to prevent duplication of efforts.

Next steps:

Members agreed that the feasibility of these ideas will be an influencing factor when selecting their next project. The Committee will table their new project discussion while the necessary information is obtained and take an official vote at a later date.

2. Regional Meeting Slides

The Committee reviewed the regional meeting presentation on “Data Collection to Assess Socioeconomic Status & Access to Transplant”.

Summary of discussion:

The Committee had the following recommendations:

- Member implementation slide: Clarify that submission of a Transplant Candidate Registration (TCR) form is already required for each candidate at the time of listing. The only new requirements would be the collection of annual household income and household size fields on the TCR.
- Strike the following feedback question: “Should the OPTN have a phase-in time period before these fields become mandatory?” (The purpose of the phase- in would be to give transplant centers time to adjust to new data collection requirements before the fields become mandatory).

Next steps:

UNOS staff will consider these suggestions and start the interdepartmental review of this presentation.

3. OPTN Materials Document Library

The Committee was informed on the OPTN’s new document management method.

Summary of discussion:

There was no discussion.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- Feb 17, 2020 (teleconference)
- March 16, 2020 (teleconference)