

OPTN Histocompatibility Committee

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2020

Conference Call

Cathi Murphey, PhD, Chair

Pete Lalli, PhD, Vice Chair

Introduction

The Histocompatibility Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 02/11/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Project Updates
2. KPD Pilot Reassessment
3. Public Comment Proposal (OSC): Modify Blood Type Determination & Reporting Policies and related Guidance Document
4. Open Forum

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

1. Project Updates

- HLA Updates Proposal
UNOS staff presented public comment feedback gathered so far from the OPTN website and regional meetings. The theme of the feedback so far is that there should be more expansion on the scope of the proposal, especially in including additional alleles and epitopes. The committee discussed the comments and would like to establish the practice of using epitopes with two of the more significant groupings before overwhelming histocompatibility professionals and transplant physicians with less researched epitopes.
- CPRA Calculator RFP
UNOS staff presented on the progress of the CPRA calculator project, its scope, and the necessity of legal department review. The committee leadership will review the RFP before it is posted publicly. The committee expressed no concerns.

2. KPD Pilot Reassessment

The UNOS Kidney Paired Donation (KPD) program director presented on the high refusal rate of kidney-paired donations due to virtual and physical crossmatch declines.

Data summary:

Slides attached.

Summary of discussion:

The committee chair brought forward the idea of comparing OPTN data to the National Kidney Registry (NKR) data for crossmatch declines. Both programs have different patient and donor parameters, but it might provide insight into OPTN decline rates. Another committee member brought up that OPTN KPD doesn't have negative repercussions for the recipient transplant center for declining an offer, and that the OPTN KPD program tends to be used on more complex cases than the NKR program does.

Next steps:

The committee will review meeting materials and discuss questions posed by the KPD program director at the next month's meeting. The focus is to review histocompatibility policy for the KPD program, as well as discuss how to better educate or enable HLA labs and transplant centers to use the program correctly and efficiently.

3. Public Comment Proposal (OSC): Modify Blood Type Determination & Reporting Policies and related Guidance Document

The Ops and Safety Committee chair presented a summary of two documents out for public comment.

Data summary:

Slides attached.

Summary of discussion:

The committee was strongly in favor of testing blood type using DNA, but brought up reservations about the abilities of some labs to perform specified tests due to CLIA and state regulations. The committee also discussed including a question on hemodilution in DonorNet every time a blood sample is sent in, and the reporting and documentation burdens that could create. UNOS staff asked the committee to vote on the proposals.

Modify Blood Type Determination and Reporting Policies: 7 yes, 3 no, 6 abstain.

Guidance on Blood Type Determination: 7 yes, 2 no, 7 abstain.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will briefly summarize the committee's response to the proposals for the committee to review and then send to the ops and safety committee.

4. Open Forum

There were no additional discussion items.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 10, 2020, teleconference from 12-1 pm EST
- April 17, 2020, In-Person Meeting, Richmond, VA
- May 12, 2020, teleconference from 12-1 pm EST