

OPTN Policy Oversight Committee

Meeting Summary

January 13, 2020

Teleconference

Chair: Alexandra Glazier, JD, MPH

Vice Chair: Nicole Turgeon, MD

Introduction

The Policy Oversight Committee (POC) met via Citrix GoToMeeting on 1/13/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. January Public Comment Proposals
2. New Committee Project
3. Strategic Policy Priority: Efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization
4. Regional Meeting Prep

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

1. January Public Comment Proposals

The OPTN policy development process includes a review of public comment papers prior to their release to the public. The POC reviewed the substance of those proposals during their October 30th meeting. This January review serves as a final review before public comment.

Summary of discussion:

The POC reviewed the following projects:

Public Comment Paper	Committee(s)
Distribution of Pancreata and Kidneys from Alaska – Proposal	Kidney and Pancreas
HLA Equivalency Tables Update (2020) – Proposal	Histocompatibility
Modifications to Released Kidney and Pancreas Allocation – Proposal	OPO
Addressing Medically Urgent Candidates in New Kidney Allocation Policy – Proposal	Kidney
Enhancements to the National Liver Review Board – Proposal	Liver & Intestine
Update to VCA Transplant Outcomes Data Collection – Proposal	VCA
Data Collection to Assess Socioeconomic Status & Access to Transplant – Proposal	Minority Affairs
National Heart Review Board for Pediatric Candidates – Proposal	Thoracic
Modify Blood Type Determination and Reporting Policies – Proposal	Ops & Safety
Guidance on Blood Type Determination – Guidance Document	Ops & Safety
Guidance for Transplant Hospital on Transplant Candidate Use of Social Media to Find Living Donors – Guidance Document	Living Donor
Data Collection on Uterus Transplant Recipient Outcomes – Request for Feedback	VCA

The POC provided feedback on a few of the papers.

Data Collection on Uterus Transplant Recipient Outcomes – Request for Feedback

- This paper is an outgrowth of the VCA project to update VCA transplant outcomes data collection.

- The POC asked that the document more clearly describe the regulatory landscape for collecting this type of data and more explicitly ask for feedback on it.
- HRSA and UNOS counsel reviewed the project and agreed that this type of data collection could be within the OPTN's authority. They agreed that a Request for Feedback is the appropriate vehicle to collect community feedback on this topic.

Data Collection on Socioeconomic Status & Access to Transplant (MAC)

- The POC asked that the document more clearly describe the OPTN's authority to collect data that will help the OPTN assess transplant access after someone has been registered on the waiting list.

Released Kidneys and Pancreata (OPO)

- The POC discussed whether there was any need to amend the proposal due to recent CMS initiatives that could increase the number of organs. The POC did not request any changes to the document.

The POC voted unanimously to endorse the release of these documents, consistent with the above comments, for public comment.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will update the documents as requested by the POC. The Chair of the POC will present these recommendations to the Executive Committee on January 16th. At that time, the Executive Committee will decide which papers to release for public comment.

2. New Committee Project

The MPSC submitted a new project titled, "Membership Requirements Revisions and Simplification." The MPSC identified the following areas for improvement in membership requirements. Current membership requirements bylaws:

- Do not support a process for periodic reassessment of membership status required by the new OPTN contract
- Have not been comprehensively reviewed for consistency with current practice in over ten years
- Contain inadequate currency requirements
- Contain inconsistencies and discrepancies that complicate not only the members' ability to comply but also the MPSC's review of membership applications
- Require that members resubmit documentation that an individual meets all of the key personnel requirements regardless of previous experience in key personnel positions
- The POC discussed the need to schedule the organ specific bylaw discussions along with continuous distribution and other committee projects. The POC unanimously endorsed the approval of this project.

Next steps:

The Chair of the POC will present this recommendation to the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

3. Strategic Policy Priority: Efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization

In 2019, the POC with the Executive Committee developed three strategic policy priorities to coordinate and priorities committee projects.

Summary of discussion:

At the December OPTN Board of Directors meeting, the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following ideas related to kidney allocation and distribution are referred to the OPTN Policy Oversight Committee (POC) for initiation of policy development work on those considered appropriate for OPTN policy and fall within the “Efficient donor/recipient matching to increase utilization” policy priority theme. ...

The resolution contained 14 different project ideas for the POC to review. The ideas concerned provisional acceptances, backup policies, cross matching materials, biopsies, waivers, and other topics related to the organ offer system. The POC discussed that many of these ideas would most appropriately be sponsored by the Organ Procurement Organization or Operations and Safety committees. POC leadership clarified that the Board resolution does not require the POC to approve these projects but rather that the ideas are reviewed amongst the portfolio of work related to the efficient donors/recipient matching to increase utilization.

The POC reviewed prior discussions on this strategic priority that categorized projects into dynamic match screening, transplant program screening, and offer/acceptance mechanics. The POC also planned a four phase approach to these project ideas:

- Phase 1: Enhanced screening; improve pediatric offer acceptance; and best practices on getting to “yes”
- Phase 2: Facilitated placement for each organ; safety net for marginal organs; and designate aggressive candidates
- Phase 3: Batch offers; local backup; and dynamic offers
- Phase 4: Target acceptance rates

Next steps:

The Vice Chairs of the OPO and Ops and Safety committees were tasked to review these ideas for their value and potential scheduling amongst the committees’ portfolio of work. The POC will discuss their feedback on their next call.

4. Regional Meeting Prep

UNOS staff informed the POC that there will be a POC update at the upcoming regional meetings. This is a new process step meant to inform members about the strategic policy priorities process and how project ideas are coordinated and prioritized.

Next steps:

UNOS staff will share the presentation with the entire POC and prepare members before their presentations.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

- February 28, 2020
- May 20, 2020 (in-person)