

OPTN Ad Hoc International Relations

Meeting Summary

April 13, 2020

Conference Call

Kishore Iyer, MBBS, FRCS, FACS , Chair
Barry Friedman, RN, BSN, MBA, CPTC , Vice Chair

Introduction

The Ad Hoc International Relations Committee (AHIRC) met via Citrix GoTo teleconference on 04/13/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Data Collection Process Training
2. AHIRC Survey Update and Discussion
3. Policy Oversight Committee Update

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

1. Data Collection Process Training

UNOS staff presented to AHIRC the Data Advisory Committee's new role as an operating committee.

Summary of discussion:

This presentation exceeded the allotted time on the agenda. There were no comments or feedback provided regarding this training session. Committee support staff will ensure the slide deck is sent to the full committee for review and feedback.

2. AHIRC Survey Update and Discussion

The Committee Chair provided a historical summary on the Program Information Request survey. The goal of this survey is to understand transplant center policies and practices regarding acceptance of non-US citizen non-resident (NCNR) travel for transplant patients.

Summary of discussion:

- A member stated the committee has been working on this project for six years. It is focused on practices and philosophies, not intended to gain individual candidate information.
- It is critical that we have a better understanding of what is happening worldwide. Many programs question us (the OPTN) for allowing transplants centers to transplant organs to recipients that have transplant centers in countries of their own.
- A member stated this committee does not have a specific view regarding what is right and wrong, the mandate of the committee is to gather the data and review it.
- Another member noted that the data collection forms were changed in 2012, and the Committee has been reviewing the annual report of non-US resident transplant activity, which led to the idea for this survey.
- A member stated that UNOS has been cautious in their support because members are not violating any laws or policies by listing and transplanting NCNRs, but the Committee has received approval from UNOS leadership to move forward with this survey.
- One member asked what the difference is between question one and question two?

- Question one speaks about process, and the second question is much broader.
 - There was a recommendation to switch the order of the questions and UNOS support staff will make that change before sending for final approval.
 - Yes
- Another member stated this is the right time to send it as people have time on their hands.
- The committee voted on the survey language:
 - Vote - 100% supported as written with the exception of interchanging questions one and two.
- UNOS support staff reviewed next steps:
 - Final survey language will be updated and sent to the UNOS survey department for final review and approval
 - Appropriate survey tool will be chosen
 - Timeline for distribution will be decided
 - Committee Chair and Vice Chair will write an introduction letter to accompany the survey
 - UNOS support staff will provide the Transplant Administrator and Medical Directors contact information for each center scheduled to receive the survey for committee leadership follow up

3. Policy Oversight Committee Update

Due to time, this agenda item will be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Summary of discussion:

None

Upcoming Meetings

- May 12, 2:00 – 3:00: Teleconference