

**OPTN Patient Affairs Committee  
Meeting Summary  
May 19, 2020  
Conference Call**

**Darnell Waun, MSN, Chair  
Garrett Erdle, MBA, Vice Chair**

## **Introduction**

The Patient Affairs Committee (PAC) met via teleconference on 5/19/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. COVID-19 Update
2. Update on Kidney Medical Urgency Proposal
3. Cross Committee Work Update
4. Open Forum

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

### **1. COVID-19 Update**

The Committee received an update on transplant rate statistics since the last call. The Chair gave a presentation on COVID-19 and how it effects the transplant patient community.

A Committee member asked if there is any data available on transplant candidates or recipients who received organs from COVID-19 donors. Committee members were not aware of any existing data. One committee member commented the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) has been gathering information from transplant programs that may be relevant.

### **2. Update on Kidney Medical Urgency Proposal**

The Committee received an update on the Kidney Committee's *Addressing Medically Urgent Candidates in New Kidney Allocation Policy* proposal. The presenter reviewed the purpose of the proposal, proposed definition, public comment response, and what changed in the proposal as a result of Public Comment.

A Kidney Committee representative commented there was a lot of discussion on whether to change the terminology used for "Medically Urgent", but the Kidney Committee ultimately decided to keep the language as is because it's consistent with language used for other organ types in OPTN policy.

A committee member asked how transplant hospitals will be educated on the new policy. The presenter informed the committee there will be a robust education effort to include notifications within the UNet<sup>sm</sup> system and outreach to programs who have candidates that might meet the criteria.

The Vice Chair requested to receive an update on post-implementation data.

### Next Steps

The proposal will go to the OPTN Board of Directors for review and approval.

### **3. Cross Committee Work Update**

Committee members serving on the Ethics Committee's Facilitating Patient Navigation Workgroup gave an update on the Workgroup's progress so far. The Workgroup just started meeting recently and is still determining the scope of their work. A Committee member commented what the Workgroup should be mindful to create a document that is thorough but would not be overwhelming for patients.

The committee member serving on the Disease Transmission Advisory Committee's Revise PHS Increased Risk Criteria Workgroup informed the committee the Workgroup's meetings have been delayed due to COVID-19.

### **4. Open Forum**

The Chair informed the Committee the next in-person meeting will be held on September 1, 2020. The Committee will be updated on any details regarding travel and location as soon as information is available.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

- June 16, 2020 – Teleconference