

OPTN Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee

Meeting Summary

May 27, 2020

Conference Call

Diane Brockmeier, Committee Chair

Kurt Shutterly, Vice-Chair

Introduction

The Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 5/27/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Data Advisory Committee Update
2. Membership and Professional Services Committee – Appendix B Bylaws Revisions
3. COVID-19 Data Collection
4. Expedited Placement of Livers – Transition Plan

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

1. Data Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

UNOS staff provided an update on the DAC's new role and scope of work.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff noted that the DAC is charged with improving data quality through a variety of tasks. These include a systematic review of existing data and improving existing data definitions. The DAC provides an annual data review and quality reports to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Board of Directors.

A member commented about the review of existing data collection forms and asked about the process for recommending changes. She noted that the transplant candidate registration (TCR) forms collect data on education level and employment status. The member also commented that if collection this information is necessary, then military service should be taken into account. UNOS staff agreed to bring the comments back to the DAC.

2. Membership and Professional Services Committee – Appendix B Bylaws Revisions

Summary of discussion:

UNOS staff provided an overview of the changes made to the bylaws language since the Committee reviewed and provided input in March 2020.

The Committee members provided the following comments:

- Section B.5.A.1
 - A member commented that as allocation policy moves away from donation service areas (DSAs), should the bylaw language reflect OPO written agreements with

transplant programs within geographic areas instead of DSAs. UNOS staff noted that the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA) still requires agreements within DSAs.

- A member commented about the proposed change from transplant hospitals to transplant programs. This would require some OPOs to have many extra agreements. There was a recommendation to maintain the hospital agreement requirement while including language about notifications about programs.
- B.6.B – A member inquired if medical directors were required to be full-time employees. For example, some OPOs have contractors or consultants serving in the role of medical director. UNOS staff noted that the MPSC has received similar comments and will continue to discuss this issue.
- B.7 – A member expressed concerns about the requirements because OPOs do not always perform the organ recovery.
- B.8 – A member noted that not all OPO governing bodies develop and oversee policies and procedures; they might only serve as advisory.
- B.9.C – Several members inquired about the inclusion of donation after circulatory death (DCD) protocols in the bylaws.

3. COVID-19 Data Collection

Summary of Discussion:

UNOS staff noted that new DonorNet data collection for COVID-19 testing was implemented on April 21, 2020. Data shows that for the period of April 21 to May 22, 2020, only one of the 960 recovered deceased donors did not have testing information either in the new data field, as an attachment, or in the donor highlights field. UNOS staff inquired about how OPOs are currently providing the data. There was variability in the responses. UNOS staff noted that it would be easier to analyze the data if OPOs would use the new data field. Committee leadership suggested additional education and communication to the community to improve the use of the new data field.

4. Expedited Placement of Livers – Transition Plan

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee's Expedited Placement of Livers policy proposal was approved by the OPTN Board of Directors in December 2019.¹ Although the Committee discussed the impact of the revised policy on patients during the policy's development, the Committee discussed the following questions to determine if a transition procedure should be adopted:

- Are there any populations that may be treated less fairly under this new allocation policy than they would be under the current policy?
- If so, should we adopt a transition plan for these populations?

The Committee discussed candidates that reside in geographically isolated areas may encounter issues with traveling to a transplant center to be a recipient of an expedited liver offer. However, this is an issue that currently exists and this policy change does not provide any additional issues or specific disadvantage. The Committee concluded that it does not recommend the adoption of transition procedures for this policy.

¹ Policy Notice available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 17, 2020 (Teleconference)