

**OPTN Transplant Administrators Committee
Meeting Summary
May 27, 2020
Conference Call**

**Nancy Metzler, Chair
Susan Zylicz, MHA, BSN, RN, CCTC, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Transplant Administrators Committee met via Citrix GoToTraining teleconference on 05/27/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Member Quality Update – Virtual Surveys
2. Data Collection Process Training
3. POC Update

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

1. Member Quality Update – Virtual Surveys

Due to COVID-19, site surveys are being conducted virtually. UNOS Staff provided an update on this process and outcomes so far.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS Staff reported that data review, education, interviews, and discussions are still being conducted virtually using the technology preferred by the member. UNOS Staff shared that the conversion to virtual, rather than conducting site surveys in person, has been fairly easy. UNOS Member Quality staff will continue to check in 6-8 weeks prior to when the survey is due to determine if the program would prefer to postpone all or selected components of site survey. If postponed, UNOS staff is checking in every 3-4 weeks to determine if the program is ready to reschedule. UNOS Staff noted that less programs are choosing to postpone than initially anticipated.

A member asked if virtual surveys will be an option in the future. UNOS Staff shared that this idea is being explored but no decision has been made.

A member commented that they had a very successful virtual survey and thanked the Member Quality team.

2. Data Collection Process Training

UNOS Staff gave an overview of the Data Advisory Committee (DAC) and provided updates.

Summary of discussion:

UNOS Staff shared that one of the goals of DAC is to improve the accuracy, consistency, and completeness of OPTN’s data by collaborating with all stakeholders. The most recent OPTN contract assigned approximately ten tasks that pertain to data management. Two of the primary contract tasks that DAC is charged with fulfilling are 3.2.5.2 and 3.5. DAC is now designated an operating committee and will have purview over all data collection as well as modifications and removal of data.

DAC is charged with:

- Ensuring alignment with OPTN Data Collection Principles
- Ensuring data has been evaluated against Data Element Standards of Review
- Recommends data elements to add, modify, or remove
- Provides recommendations on improving completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data collected

To provide many perspectives from those that use and are impacted by OPTN data, DAC currently consists of 15 members that include:

- Coordinators
- Administrators
- Quality leadership for OPOs and transplant programs
- Recipient family member
- Physicians and surgeons
- Researchers

Three more members will be joining on 7/1/20 including a transplant administrator.

In addition to collaborating with committees on projects involving data collection, DAC is reviewing existing data, working to improve data definitions, and preparing an annual data review and quality report for the Board of Directors and HRSA. Members may submit requests for clarity for data definitions via the Service Portal.

To ensure that all data being collected has a purpose, is relevant, and is standardized to the extent possible, DAC will be involved in various stages of a committee project's lifecycle beginning in the Idea phase. Committees will present their project to DAC and seek an endorsement before review by the Policy Oversight Committee (POC). Prior to public comment, data elements and data definitions will be defined to allow for more transparency to the community. Following board approval, any modification to data collection needs to be submitted to HRSA within 20 business days as required by HRSA. This will require current processes to be expedited.

A member commented that they have been surprised by data collection requests in the past.

One member requested to receive the Data Element Standard of Review Checklist. UNOS staff will distribute the checklist to the full committee as well as posting it on the TAC Share Point site.

3. POC Update

The Vice Chair provided an overview of what occurred at the last Policy Oversight Committee meeting on 5/20/20.

Summary of discussion:

The Vice Chair shared that the POC Committee participated in an Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) exercise in which they considered and prioritized attributes used in lung allocation.

The following new workgroups have been established to support the strategic policy priority of efficient placement:

- Provisional Yes
- Local Recovery
- Biopsy Practices

POC also previewed policies going to public comment in August 2020 and provided approval to three new projects:

- Pediatric Heart Guidance
- Updating Median MELD at Transplant (MMaT) Calculation
- Sorting Within Liver Allocation Calculations

Upcoming Meetings

- June 24, 4:00 – 5:00 ET Teleconference
- July 22, – **Timing TBD, this will take the place of the scheduled in-person meeting**