

**OPTN Operations and Safety Committee
Meeting Summary
July 23, 2020
Conference Call**

**Christopher Curran, CPTC, CTBS, CTOP, Chair
Alden Doyle, MD, MPH, Vice Chair**

Introduction

The Operations and Safety Committee (the Committee) met via Citrix GoToMeeting teleconference on 07/23/2020 to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introduction to UNOS Research Department
2. Review of Operations & Safety Committee Projects
3. Discussion: New Project Ideas
4. Updates: HLA Initiative, DonorNet Functionality, Post-Transplant Reporting

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

1. Introduction to UNOS Research Department

The Committee was presented the roles and responsibilities of the UNOS Research Department as well as the processes for submitting data requests.

There were no comments or questions.

2. Review of Operations and Safety Committee Projects

The Committee reviewed past projects.

Summary of discussion:

Implemented/Pending Implementation Projects

- Guidance on Blood Type Determination – the guidance document was approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) and became effective on June 8, 2020
- Modify Blood Type Determination and Reporting Policies – this proposal was approved by the BOD on June 8, 2020. The proposal is scheduled to be implemented on September 1, 2020.

Current Projects

- Data Collection to Evaluate the Logistical Impacts of Broader Distribution – the Committee reviewed the history of this project from the Committee's work on developing a guidance document and then request for feedback on data elements to consider for collecting data to evaluate the logistical impacts of broader distribution. This project will now focus on developing a data collection proposal. A Workgroup has been formed and work on this project will begin in the near future.
- Addressing Organ Packaging Practices – the Workgroup for this project has met once. During the initial meeting, the Workgroup discussed what they have observed in the field regarding packaging of organs. In obtaining more information, they Workgroup will be consulting with

subject matter experts (SMEs) to obtain more information in understanding the problem before developing a scope for this project.

Current OPTN Projects with Operations & Safety Committee Representation

- Policy Oversight Committee (POC) Projects – the Committee was made aware of the following projects that have OSC representation:
 - Biopsy Standards Workgroup
 - Provisional Yes Workgroup
 - Local Recovery Workgroup

Further updates will be provided to the Committee as these projects progress. There were no comments or questions.

3. Discussion: New Project Ideas

The Committee discussed new project ideas.

Summary of discussion:

Potential Project Ideas

- Defining data fields specific to donation after cardiac death (DCD)
- Identifying and addressing safety measures that have or may arise during coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

A member suggested analyzing recent policy changes to review their effect on liver discards. The Chair agreed with this idea and suggested it could be combined with a project that analyzes the acceptances of multiple donor organs for one recipient. The Chair explained that there is data that suggests this process leads to an increased discard rate of livers, and asked if there were current projects addressing this topic. UNOS staff will find out.

Additionally, the member was interested in the impact of local recovery teams during COVID-19. Staff explained current conversations in the POC Local Recovery Workgroup include communication enhancements and policy changes. Another member agreed with studying the local recovery model.

The Chair asked if the POC Provisional Yes Workgroup is discussing the accountability among transplant programs and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) during the acceptance process. The Vice Chair, who is a member on the POC Provisional Yes Workgroup, responded that the Workgroup has had conversations regarding accountability and the impacts certain behaviors have on the acceptance process.

Another member asked if there was any data surrounding OPOs' ability to hold programs to time limits in order to make the allocation process efficient. The Chair agreed this is an important question but was unsure about available allocation data. UNOS staff will look into what data is available.

A member asked if there is a workgroup discussing efficiency with multi-organ combination offers. The Chair responded that there are conversations occurring about this topic although they do not think there is an official project regarding efficiency of these processes. UNOS staff responded that the OPO Committee is reviewing data and evaluating organ specific policy regarding multi-organ transplants.

Another member asked if there is a project working on standardizing culture reporting after transplant. The Chair responded that a previous project designed a mechanism in DonorNet which allows the reporting of cultures after transplant. The Chair mentioned the pilot program developed around testing this mechanism will begin soon, and, if successful, will become broadly implemented.

A member suggested the possibility of putting directed deceased donors on the match run to resolve issues such as ABO verification. The Chair wondered if there is an operational solution to this problem, such as an organ verification process that can occur through the Waitlist platform.

Another member suggested discussing concerns regarding effects of heparin dosage on DCDs. The Chair concurred with this idea.

Next Steps:

The Committee will continue to discuss project ideas.

4. Updates: HLA Initiative, DonorNet® Functionality, Post-Transplant Reporting Project

The Committee received an update from IT.

Summary of Discussion:

The Post-Transplant Reporting pilot will begin in July and have a three-month duration. The HLA Initiative is contingent upon the standardization of the HLA data collection. The DonorNet® Functionality project is dependent on the DonorNet® Mobile National project roll out, which began mid-July.

There were no comments or questions. The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

- August 27, 2020 (teleconference)
- September 24, 2020 (teleconference)